

GCC to upgrade desalination capacity

BAHRAIN (AP) — The Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) six member states, already pumping more than 50 per cent of the world's supply of desalinated water, plan to upgrade their capacities by the turn of the century, an official said Tuesday. "GCC represents slightly over 56 per cent of the world's water desalination capacity, and that will be increased to 61 per cent," said Mohammad Al Sofi, vice-president of the Bahrain-based Water Sciences and Technology Association of the GCC. He said the increase will come from five new plants in GCC countries and the expansion of the 42 existing ones. Mr. Sofi spoke to reporters on the sidelines of the second Gulf water conference which ended Tuesday. Some 350 experts took part in the gathering which focused on water conservation in one of the most arid regions of the world. Mr. Sofi said that one plant in Jubail, Saudi Arabia, accounts for 10 per cent of the global capacity, producing up to one million cubic metres a day. "By the end of the decade there will be three plants with comparable capacity to Jubail," Mr. Sofi said.

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Jordan restates offer to help PNA

AMMAN (Petra) — Social Development Minister Mohammad Squer on Tuesday expressed his ministry's willingness to offer every possible assistance to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in social development fields. At a meeting here with the director of the PNA's Social Affairs Department Intisar Al Wazir, Dr. Squer said the ministry was ready to help the PNA through offering expertise in the fields of the handicapped, special education, family, social defence, charity societies and combating crime and poverty. Ms. Wazir said social problems resulting from decades of Israeli occupation need a lot of efforts to be addressed, stressing that the PNA was in need of assistance from Jordan. The Palestinian authority, she said, was currently conducting studies on these social problems, which include poverty and unemployment. The Palestinian official stressed the need to boost and bolster Jordanian-Palestinian relations, affirming that the relationship was the cornerstone in any regional relationship.

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1994, JUMADA ALTHANIA 5, 1415

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Spanish royal couple due here Nov. 11

AMMAN (Petra) — King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain will pay a three-day state visit to Jordan from Nov. 11-Nov. 13, a communiqué issued by the Royal Court said Tuesday. The communiqué said the visit comes in response to an invitation extended to them by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor.

Khalifeh named envoy to S. Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Tuesday appointed Hani Khalifeh as Jordan's ambassador to Saudi Arabia. Before this appointment, Mr. Khalifeh was Jordan's ambassador to Canada.

League criticises Hebron mosque curbs

CAIRO (AP) — The Arab League on Tuesday criticised security measures introduced by Israel at the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron and urged the world community to intervene. The 22-member league said in a statement that heightened security at the shrine forced Muslim worshippers to pass through too many security checks, "virtually turning it into a military camp." It urged international organisations to intervene to stop "these provocative measures, which transgress on places with spiritual values to the faithful." The league said tension over the security could undermine the Middle East peace process.

Rabin to visit U.S. next week

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will begin next Tuesday a week-long visit to the United States where he will hold talks on Middle East peace with President Bill Clinton, officials said. Mr. Rabin, who is also to meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, is slated to return on Nov. 22. Mr. Clinton met Mr. Rabin on Oct. 27 after talks in Damascus where he said "progress" was made. Israeli radio reported that Mr. Christopher would on Nov. 20 launch his sixth Middle East shuttle this year in a bid to narrow the gap between Israel and Syria.

Argentine lawmaker seeks report on blast

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — A high-profile opposition lawmaker Tuesday called on the government to make public the results of its probe into the July 18 bomb blast that killed 95 people at a Jewish association headquarters. "More than three months have passed since one of the worst terrorist attacks in Argentine history and there are no indications that the ongoing investigation has produced any positive results," said centre-left deputy and presidential hopeful Carlos Alvarez. In a resolution introduced in congress, Mr. Alvarez asked the government to provide details on intelligence organisations participating in the probe, and on border control measure taken since the attack. Last week, President Carlos Menem pledged to create an "elite corps" of investigators to continue the inquiry into the bombing of the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association building.

Ex-minister sues minister in Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah, a former oil minister on trial in an embezzlement case, has sued the prosecutor-general and the justice minister for ordering a freeze on the defendant's assets in Switzerland. A lawyer close to the case told the Associated Press the complaint went to a criminal court Tuesday. After hearing Sheikh Ali's case, the court adjourned till Jan. 3, 1995. "There has been a mistake in procedures taken by the prosecutor-general, and we want to make it right," the lawyer said.

Russia announces Iraqi recognition of Kuwait Kozyrev due in Baghdad to follow up; U.S. says Iraqi move not enough

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia announced Tuesday that Iraq had recognised the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait as ordered by the United Nations, and dispatched the Russian foreign minister to Baghdad to finalise arrangements.

The U.S. said immediately Iraq's recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty and borders, as reported by Russia, was not enough to achieve a lifting of U.N. sanctions against Baghdad.

"Border recognition would meet only one of a number of requirements to which Iraq has not complied, and would not in itself establish Iraq's peaceful intentions which were called into question by its provocation in October," said State Department spokesman David Johnson.

"Our policy regarding Iraq and U.N. Security Council sanctions remains that Iraq must comply fully with all the relevant Security Council resolutions, and a recognition of Kuwait alone did not meet this requirement, Mr. Johnson said.

"We would oppose any U.N. Security Council action which might lead Iraq to con-

clude that the Security Council might consider modifying the sanctions before Iraq has met fully its obligations," he added.

Other conditions set by the U.N. Security Council for lifting of sanctions against Iraq following the Gulf war include the dismantling of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

The announcement followed talks in Moscow between Mr. Kozyrev and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz.

The foreign ministry said Mr. Aziz gave Mr. Kozyrev a letter from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein addressed to Mr. Yeltsin containing "the recognition by Iraq of the sovereignty of Kuwait and its frontiers, conforming with Resolution 833."

ITAR-TASS news agency, quoting "informed sources," said Iraq might officially recognise Kuwait "in the next few days."

Moscow has been pressing for the Security Council to give a pledge that it will lift within six months the oil embargo imposed on Iraq once Baghdad recognises Kuwait's sovereignty and

ceasefires.

to leave shortly for Baghdad to "take part in completing the appropriate constitutional procedures" concerned with recognising the emirate, the ministry statement said.

Interfax news agency said Mr. Kozyrev would leave for Baghdad Wednesday on a three-day visit.

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(Continued on page 7)

Israel to ease siege, speed up self-rule

EREZ CROSSING (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Tuesday promised Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to ease the closure of the Gaza Strip and speed up talks on expanding autonomy in the West Bank.

The moves appeared aimed at bolstering Mr. Arafat at a time of when he is losing ground to militants opposed to the peace process.

There will also be an acceleration in the so-called "early empowerment." Palestinians will take control of tourism, welfare, taxation and health in the West Bank by the end of the month. Mr. Rabin said after a 90-minute meeting at the Erez Crossing which links the autonomous Gaza Strip and Israel.

Israel will also allow 10,000 more Palestinian workers into Israel, easing a closure imposed three weeks ago after a bus bombing by Islamic militants killed 22 in Tel Aviv. Some 13,000 Palestinians are presently allowed to jobs in Israel.

Mr. Arafat thanked Mr. Rabin for a "positive and fruitful meeting" adding that he hoped "in this atmosphere we will follow up to imple-

ment what we agreed upon."

He said Israel and the Palestinians needed to "overcome all these obstacles which some elements are putting in our way, and we are confident we will be able to do this."

In their seventh meeting since an ice-breaking handshake on the White House lawn in September 1993, Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat were trying to resolve disputes that have stalled stage two of the self-rule agreement — a troop pullback from the West Bank and Palestinian general elections.

Mr. Rabin's key concession appeared to be the agreement to simultaneously negotiate the elections as well as the army's West Bank redeployment and the security of 120,000 settlers there.

"The discussions will be comprehensive, all the issues that need to be solved to move to the next stage," Mr. Rabin said.

Mr. Rabin said security issues were raised in the meeting Tuesday but would give no details.

Since autonomy was launched in the Gaza Strip and Jericho last May, the Palestinians have been given charge only of education on the

West Bank.

Israel had insisted that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) first raise funds to run the departments now under army control.

"We started with education and the four other spheres were agreed but there was a need to finance," Mr. Rabin said.

The finance would be ready before December, he said, and "as a result we will continue on the 15th of this month with tourism and welfare, and by the end of the month with health and taxation.

In a U-turn, Mr. Rabin said negotiations on election to a Palestinian autonomy council and the redeployment outside built-up Arab areas on the West Bank would start soon.

"Two weeks from now we will enter negotiations on elections, redeployment, security to Israelis and settlers, external security, legal reviews and other issues," he said.

"I don't know how long these negotiations will take," Mr. Rabin admitted.

He had previously rejected Palestinian demands to

(Continued on page 7)



MILITARY ELECTRONICS: His Majesty accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Prince Hassan, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai and senior Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz visits the premises of the Armed Forces after inaugurating it. (Armed Forces photo)

Dead Sea meeting studies confidence-building moves

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Confidence-building measures among the countries of the Middle East, including prior notification of army exercises and joint rescue efforts in sea and on land, are the focus of a two-day meeting of the main members of the multilateral working group of arms control that opened at the Dead Sea Spa Hotel on Monday.

A concrete proposal expected to be studied by the meeting, attended by 22 countries including Jordan and Israel, is for the establishment of a "conflict-prevention and regional security centre" in the Middle East.

The topics to be discussed in this intercessional operational basket of the arms control and regional security working group, such as search and rescue for humanitarian purposes, to confidence and security building measures between militaries, in the exchange of information, pre-notifications of military exercises and activities, and the establishment of

a communication network system, ... lie at the very heart of the new security environment," Dr. Touqan said.

Dr. Touqan noted that the idea of establishing "a regional conflict preventing resolution and crisis management centre" was discussed in informal talks among delegates on Monday and expressed hope that the proposal would receive a boost during this week's meetings.

Among the first step towards setting up such a centre is an undertaking by all countries in the region to provide complete information of all the weapons they possess with a view to setting up a data bank on arms in the Middle East, long known to be the most lucrative market for the Western arms industry.

Observers believe that Israel, which has for long refused to acknowledge its reported nuclear arsenal, would balk at providing such information. So far, it has

(Continued on page 7)

Clinton urges progress on Syrian, Lebanese tracks

BEIRUT (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton called for progress in Syrian and Lebanese negotiations with Israel in a letter he sent Tuesday to Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, officials said.

Mr. Clinton also spoke of the progress achieved between Jordan and Israel, which signed a peace treaty on Oct. 26 ending 46 years of hostilities, said U.S. Charge d'Affaires Ronald Schlycher who delivered the letter.

The U.S. president briefs Mr. Hrawi on his meeting with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus, the day after Mr. Clinton witnessed the signing ceremony on the Jordanian-Israeli border.

Mr. Clinton also expressed his country's interest in the efforts of the Lebanese government to forge ahead with

an ambitious multi-billion-dollar post-war reconstruction programme and voiced hope for Lebanon's future, Mr. Schlycher said.

The U.S. diplomat also gave Mr. Hrawi a letter from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in which he outlined his latest peace mission to the region.

Mr. Christopher is set to return to the Middle East later this month to try to revive stalled Syrian-Israeli peace talks.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said on Monday direct negotiations with Israel could resume in Washington after Mr. Christopher's visit.

Direct negotiations between Syria, Lebanon and Israel have been suspended since February, following the

massacre of more than 30 Palestinians in Hebron mosque by an Israeli settler.

Mr. Clinton's message to Mr. Hrawi followed reports by the Lebanese media that Lebanese government leaders were offended by Mr. Clinton's decision to exclude Lebanon from his first-ever trip to the Middle East.

"Israel also wants to drain the Arabs' wealth to weaken them to the extent whereby it can control, their potential and wealth," Tishrin declared.

Syria boycotted the Oct. 31-Nov. 1 Middle East economic summit in Casablanca, Morocco and has sharply denounced Arab leaders for their "rush" to do business with the Israelis before a comprehensive peace settlement has been achieved.

This ... is no more than a new kind of colonisation that aims to infiltrate Arab society through the economy, politics

and technology," the Tishrin daily said in a front-page editorial.

The newspaper charged that Israel "seeks in practical ways to cancel the Arab identity of the Middle East region and drown the Arabs in new problems and bloody civil wars."

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According to this thinking, while Palestinians are left on their own to struggle to end the Israeli occupation, their expected failure under the prevailing circumstances or the failure of their leadership will lead to the reassertion of Jordan's role.

This conclusion, shared by many, is not necessarily a reaction to what Palestinians perceive as Jordanian plans or intentions. Based on interviews, the conclusion reflects disillusionment in the peace process, at least on the Palestinian track, and an overwhelming feeling that the Palestini-

ans feel left on their own, ponder Jordanian role.

Others blame the poor performance of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) that resulted in the failure of making real

changes in the living conditions or towards easing the Israeli occupation.

But in all cases, regardless of the level of support or opposition to the Jordanian-Israeli treaty reactions varied. Yet they all carried the conclusion that the Palestinians were left on their own to their own fate.

The reactions, however, varied over who to blame or how to apportion the blame. In most cases, people would blame the Palestinian leadership for signing a separate agreement with Israel and paving the way for, if not compelling other governments to follow suit.

Others blame the poor performance of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) that resulted in the failure of making real

(Continued on page 7)

Palestinians feel left on their own, ponder Jordanian role

By Lamis K. Andoni

The following is the first of two articles looking into Palestinian perceptions of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship in the light of the signing of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. The writer has just returned from a working visit to Gaza and the occupied territories.

PALESTINIANS in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are alarmed by how the growing rift between Jordan and the Palestinian leadership is affecting their daily lives and future.

Most recognise that a future settlement will involve some sort of a bond, or at least an association with Jordan. Furthermore, the very details of their daily lives are already tied to Jordan in one way or another, and the rift is further complicating already intertwined ties.

They feel that ordinary people, who are already

subject to Jordanian influence, publish brief reports about Jordan's ban on the entry of Palestinian activists or officials or any act that is viewed as restricting or harassing Palestinians crossing into Jordan.

Fears are frequently expressed by ordinary Palestinians that their movement might be restricted by Jordan or even being interrogated by Jordanian security forces — regardless of evidence of such acts on behalf of Jordanian government departments but nevertheless an important indication of growing anxiety and uncertainty.

Home & Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1994

Arab states urged to adopt laws to ban violence on women

By Mariana M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab states and societies should adopt legislation banning violence against women, the special U.N. envoy to the preparatory Arab women's conference, Radhika Coomaraswamy, has said.

Ms. Coomaraswamy, who met with representatives of non-governmental Arab women's groups for a discussion Monday night, is in Amman to help set a broader agenda at the women's conference to be held in Beijing next year aimed at coming up with a plan of action for Arab women into the next century.

In her official statement to the conference, which is being presented in the name of U.N. Commission on Human Rights, and in her capacity as special rapporteur in violence against women, Ms. Coomaraswamy requested that the Arab regional women's meetings include in their platform of action a statement on violence against women. The main mention of violence against women in the draft document which is still being discussed, is a reference to the effects on Arab women in areas of war and armed conflicts.

Paragraph C in section F of the document states: "Violence directed against women during wars and armed conflicts should be considered a war crime and its perpetrators should be punished according to law and imprisoned."

Ms. Coomaraswamy, however, recommends that the issues of violence against women be addressed on a much wider scale. She recommends that the following be considered for inclusion in the regional plan of action:

— An acknowledgement of the problem of violence against women as a violation of international human rights;

— An analysis of violence against women as a phenomenon that takes place in the family, community and that is sometimes condoned by states and state laws;

— Ms. Coomaraswamy "requested" that the platform of action call on the member states of the Arab League to:

— Ratify the U.N. convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women "without reservations";

— Observe the U.N. Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, bring their national laws into conformity with international standards and elaborate national plans of action to eradicate violence against women;

— Submit all information available on women and gender-desegregated data to all human rights treaty bodies and mechanisms;

— Collect data and conduct research on violence against women;

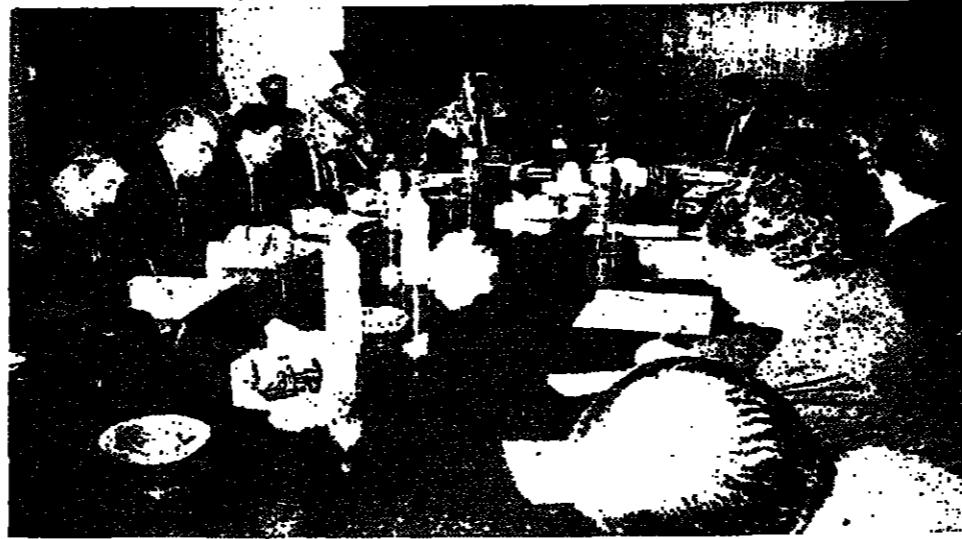
— Set up community services to assist women vic-

New industries on the increase

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali said Tuesday Jordan does not fear economic domination and that the Kingdom's private sector was capable of coping with requirements of the post-peace era.

Dr. Majali said 252 new industries were recently been established at a total cost of JD 400 million.

Addressing a meeting of the newly-formed committee of secretary generals for services affairs held at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (see photo) Dr. Majali stressed the importance of preparing for the



post-peace era.

He lauded the formation of this committee, saying that its establishment is in implementation of an initiative by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Dr. Majali called on

ministers and secretary generals to delegate part of their authorities to the department heads at the governorate-level, saying that, governors will be acting as secretary generals in their governorates.

On inter-Arab relations he said Jordan had always worked for enhancing inter-Arab relations and has done every possible effort to maintain them at their best.

Algerian government launches media blitz

ALGIERS (AFP) — The Algerian government has launched a media offensive against Islamic fundamentalists held responsible for thousands of deaths in nearly three years of bloody civil conflict.

As part of its campaign to counter the government's enemies, Algerian state television has begun running a series of nightly programmes featuring alleged confessions of former members of fundamentalist armed groups.

Religious leaders have been shown attacking armed groups and accusing them of "operating against Islam and the people." The government exercises strict control over large sections of the press and almost total control over television and radio.

The plan of action works within the framework of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

As the commission's special rapporteur, Ms. Coomaraswamy is mandated to recommend measures at a national, regional and international level to eliminate violence against women and its causes and to remedy its consequences.

Issues specifically of concern are violations of human rights of women in situations of armed conflict, sexual harassment, exploitation and trafficking in women, the elimination of gender bias in the administration of justice and the eradication of the harmful effects of certain traditional or customary practices, cultural prejudices and religious extremism.

The U.N. Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty whether occurring in public or in private life."

"No country is specially privileged to be denied the phenomenon of violence against women," said Ms. Coomaraswamy.

"The causes of violence against women are numerous and inter-related. They are rooted in political, economic and social order of society. Each culture must examine its own development to identify and eliminate violence against women. Such self-reflection is imperative if we are determined to build a violence free world, where we can live in peace and dignity," Ms. Coomaraswamy said.

under Shiite Islamic law, which is not valid in Algeria.

The bodies of the women, aged 25 and 21, were found in the Blida region, a fundamentalist stronghold 40 kilometres south of Algiers.

They had been knifed to death by Islamic fundamentalists after being abducted Friday night along with their parents and brother from the family home and refusing to enter into temporary marriages with demented militants, an official statement said.

The parents and brother were still being sought.

The media blitz came in a week when security forces stepped up operations against Islamists, claiming to have killed at least 112 in recent days.

Thousands have died in violence in Algeria since February 1992, when the military cancelled the second round of general elections the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

On Sunday evening, Abdellahi Chaouche, the Imam at Bir El Ater in the far east of the country and a member of the outlawed FIS called on the group's leaders Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj to "denounce" the armed groups.

Basing his argument on

verses of the Koran, and quotations from the Prophet Mo h a m m a d . S e i k h Chaouche said a "fatwa" or holy order issued by Belhadj legitimising the "jihad" or holy war against the government was worthless.

The jihad should instead be waged against the armed groups," he said.

Sheikh Chaouche accused the groups of defying Islam by practising sodomy, theft, raping women and holding women captive under the banned moutaa marriage rules.

The government meanwhile banned the El Umma daily newspaper and the weekly El Wajh El Akhor for a month with effect from Tuesday for their alleged support of subversion and inciting crime as well as endangering public security, an interior ministry statement said.

Both papers, one French language and one Arabic, are held to be close to the Islamists.

Last Thursday, Communications Minister Mohamad Bernmar Zerhouni warned the press against giving "criminals and killers" a platform.

The move unleashed a storm of criticism from the press, with the Liberte paper asking whether the government might extend its grip on the publication of information by acting to censor French stations and not allow them to "deliver up-to-the-minute news on the terrorism in our country."

The government faced further criticism late Monday from leaders of the Berber movement based in the north of the country, who called for a three-day general strike from Nov. 12 to protest at the official neglect of their Tamazight language.

A statement by the security service said security forces killed 16 guerrillas in 10 Algerian regions in two weeks between Friday and Sunday.

This brought the number of armed militants slain during the last week to around 150, according to the latest official reports.

In another incident, an anti-Islamist militant was killed near his Algiers home on Saturday night, the daily Al Watan newspaper said.

Lounes Djabbal, 44, a civil servant and member of the former Algerian Communist Party, was shot dead in a parking lot.

Between 10,000 and 20,000 people have been killed in violence in Algeria since the army-backed authorities cancelled elections three years ago.

Iraq shootdown hearings launched

SEMBACH (AP) — The U.S. AIB Force called just one witness Monday in presenting its negligent homicide case against a fighter pilot charged in the accidental downing of two army helicopters that claimed 26 lives.

Captain Eric A. Wickson, the lead pilot who shot down the first UH-60 Blackhawk chopper on April 14 over northern Iraq, testified under immunity in a closed courtroom with papered-over windows.

Capt. Wickson's squadron commander, Colonel Randy W. May, was flying wing that day and fired the missile from his F-15 jet fighter that destroyed the second Blackhawk as the pilots closed in at more than 80 kilometres per hour.

A decorated 19-year air force veteran, Col. May is facing the military's equivalent of a grand jury hearing. Capt. Wickson has not been charged, although he could be.

Both pilots believed they were shooting down Iraqi Hind choppers that were violating a "no-fly" zone. Instead, 15 Americans, six Kurds and military officers from Britain, France and Turkey were killed.

The proceedings at Sembach air base were closed to the news media, reflecting the sensitivity of a "friendly fire" case whose severe charges are apparently unparalleled in modern U.S. military history.

The record shows that Col. May and Capt. Wickson were not informed by the crew of an Air Force AWACs radar plane monitoring the airspace that the two Blackhawks were in the area.

Five officers on the AWACs, which tracked the helicopters for seven minutes before the attack, have been charged with dereliction of duty.

Two of them, including the major in command, have waived their right to a pre-trial hearing, leaving it to their commanding general to decide whether they should be court-martialed.

If tried and convicted, the five could be dishonorably discharged and imprisoned for up to three months.

At a hearing last month at Tinker air force base in Oklahoma, lawyers for the three AWACs controllers suggested that their clients had been poorly trained.

Testimony indicated that

the AWACs crew had a poor understanding of its mission and that there had previously been similar poor communication between AWACs crews, jet fighters and army helicopter pilots.

Capt. Wickson testified last month at the Tinker hearing that he was "positive" the helicopters were Hinds after he made visual contact and because he had not been able to identify them electronically as friend or foe.

Capt. Wickson, who had been flying F-15s since 1991 and admitted he had little experience in low-altitude intercepts, said he thought the helicopters were luring him and Col. May into a trap.

Col. May, 41, has been flying F-15s for 11 years and had been decorated for downing an Iraqi Hind during the Gulf war, although lead defence attorney Col. Earl Martin said that chopper had been out of visual range.

Col. May would not speak to reporters on Monday. He expressed remorse in a public statement calling the shootdown the result of a long chain of human error.

"Colonel May though

without a doubt when he fired that those helicopters were hostile," said defence attorney Capt. Barbara Shestko. "He was mistaken, but that's what he believed."

Capt. Shestko reported no animosity between Col. May and Capt. Wickson, who had been flying together for 10 months and "had a very good relationship." They remain based on Spangdahlem air base in Germany.

Prosecuting officers have refused to speak to reporters about the case. Major General Eugene Santarelli, who will decide whether May is court-martialed, closed the hearing to media coverage.

Lead defence attorney Capt. Earl Martin said the proceedings, known as an Article 32 hearings, would likely last two to three days.

Gen. Santarelli, commander of the 17th Air Force, will decide whether to court-martial Col. May after reviewing the report of the presiding officer, Col. Edward M. Starr.

The defence said it expected Col. Starr to take about a month to present his recommendations to Gen. Santarelli.

"Colonel May though

Queen, Mongella visit Dana village

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor, patron of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), on Tuesday visited Dana village, to review progress of the RSCN to integrate socio-economic development with the conservation of the Tafihli Governorate.

The Dana Reserve is home to a large number of species, many of which are endangered, and which also houses a camp site for tourists to promote ecological tourism and provide visitors with the opportunity to experience the area's unique beauty. Future plans include building a museum to display the rich archaeological treasures of the area, and a research centre to study its diverse ecosystem.

Earlier Tuesday, Mrs. Mongella was accompanied by Mrs. Gertrude Mongella, president of the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in 1995, to survey the comprehensive development plan in Dana Nature Reserve and Village, and the production projects, in particular women's handicrafts.

Queen Noor visited the Qadsiyah Ladies Cooper-

ative Society's new project to refine and repair local semi-precious stones jewelry manufacture. She committed further NHF assistance with equipment, training and marketing support as part of its work to promote traditional jewelry manufacture in the Kingdom.

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Earlier Tuesday, Mrs.

Mongella visited the NHF

and the Jordan Design and

Trade Centre (JDTC).

She expressed her wish that the centre hold an exhibition in Beijing to display the quality

and high standard produc-

tion of women in Jordan.

Israel proposes energy projects with Arabs

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel hopes to revive dormant oil pipelines linking the Arab World with the Mediterranean and is studying proposals to establish a free-trade zone for buying and selling crude oil, the energy minister said.

The minister, Moshe Shahal, told a news conference that Israel should be able to process many different types of crude oil piped in from Arab countries.

Outlining energy policies in an era of Middle East peace, Mr. Shahal said Israel, Jordan and Egypt were negotiating connecting their electricity grids and other countries might follow.

"It would be possible to establish a very big spot market for electricity, buying and selling electricity from Europe to countries like Jordan, Israel, the Palestinians, or hydroelectric power plants in Turkey," he said.

Mr. Shahal said Israel and its Arab neighbours were also considering proposals to jointly set up power plants at the source of energy, such as natural gas, rather than shipping it in crude form.

"It will be possible to have a power plant in Saudi Ara-

bia, selling electricity to countries like Jordan, Israel, the Palestinians, or hydroelectric power plants in Turkey," he said.

Mr. Shahal said Israel was fixing a pipeline from its Red Sea port of Eilat to the Mediterranean port of Ashkelon which until the 1970s was used to ship 40 million tonnes of crude oil a year from Iran to Europe.

Israel had good relations with Iran until Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini came to power in Tehran in 1979.

Mr. Shahal said up to 100 million tonnes of crude oil could be shipped through the renovated pipeline.

"Some businessmen from the Gulf, from Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman have already visited Israel and discussed the possibility of storing their crude oil in this way," he said.

He said Israel might also fix a pipeline used during the British mandate period to send oil from Iraq and Saudi Arabia to the Mediterranean port of Haifa. Mr. Shahal said it would cost about \$100 million to fix up the line.

According to the minister, the pipeline would be built at a high rate of speed, probably within a month, and would be managed by a single company that would oversee the entire project.

Mongella village



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday receives an Omani delegation, led by Omani Statistics and Information Secretary General Rajiba Abdul Ameen, participating in Arab Regional Preparation Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in 1995. Princess Basma Tuesday also received Sudanese Minister of Planning Marian Othman and Kuwaiti Ministry of Planning Undersecretary Mariam Al Awadi (Petra photo)

Experts discuss women's access to labour market

AMMAN (J.T.) — Strengthening the capabilities of Arab women to enter the labour market and achieve self-reliance, coping with the effects of wars and armed conflict, and violence against Arab women were the issues discussed at Tuesday's morning session of the Arab Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in 1995, according to a U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) statement.

The Draft Plan of Action for the Advancement of Arab Women to the Year 2005 said that although the Arab countries have witnessed seemingly positive changes, these have not been accompanied by similar changes in lifestyles and value systems which was reflected in the attitude towards women's work outside the home according to ESCWA, a co-organiser of the conference which began here Sunday.

The draft document said that despite the economic crisis, that the Arab countries' have been through and are still going through, the predominant feature related to the situation of working women has been the increase in their number."

According to the document, this is attributed to the high rate of population growth, the social and economic changes that Arab countries have undergone, the relative increase in female education rates and the variation in demand for working women in non-traditional sectors of the economy, according to ESCWA spokesperson Vera Azar.

However, the relative increase in female education rates in certain specialisations is an obstacle to the employment of women because of the lack of opportunities suitable for their specialised fields. Hence the high level of unemployment among women in certain scientific and technical fields, the ESCWA statement said.

Delegates and observers participating in the three-day expert level group meeting stressed that women should not be obliged to work but should have the option and right to employment if they so choose. The draft document, which was to be finalised Tuesday evening, stressed

that the general objective of the draft plan of action was to strengthen women's economic independence as well as their independence in decision-making and to provide them with equal opportunities in the labour market, said Ms. Azar.

The document, which was formulated on the basis of national reports and national plans of action submitted by each national committee, urges governments to enact laws and establish basic rules that guarantee equal rights for men and women in the workplace, such as equal recruitment and employment opportunities and equal social security and pension, in keeping with customs and traditions, she said.

Some participants objected to the words "in keeping with customs and traditions," saying the phrase contradicts the general objective of providing equal opportunities for women in the labour market, according to the ESCWA statement.

On the issue of coping with the effects of wars and armed conflict on Arab women, the Draft Regional Plan of Action, which will be presented to the high-level segment on Wednesday for adoption, said women should participate in peace negotiations and in the settlement of conflicts, Ms. Azar said.

Until now, the document noted, women have not taken part in decision-making processes, yet they suffer from the consequences of wars. Women in war circumstances are often subjected to torture, abduction and rape, in addition to any psychological disorders they may suffer.

In Monday's evening session, participants discussed means of guaranteeing equal opportunities for Arab women in education as well as ensuring women's equal access to health services, Ms. Azar said.

The meeting, held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, is organised by ESCWA, the League of Arab States and the Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research.

Participants to the meeting include senior government officials, joint national preparatory committees for the Fourth World Conference on Women, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), U.N. agencies and experts.

Flood victims to get aid — Cabinet

AMMAN (J.T.) — A special ministerial committee formed to assess the status of areas affected by recent floods in the Kingdom Tuesday submitted its report to the Council of Ministers which decided on relief measures to aid families victimised by the inclement conditions.

A statement following the regular Cabinet session said that the council endorsed recommendations on assistance to the families as proposed by the special committee and has allocated funds for the aid.

The statement, which did not specify the amount of the aid, said that a committee to be formed by Minister of Social Development Moham-

mad Sqour will take charge of the distribution of financial aid.

The ministerial committee, led by Interior Minister Salameh Hammad, Monday toured the flood-stricken areas in the Amman, Ramtha, Irbid, Mafrag and Zarqa regions, inspected the extent of damage and met with local residents and officials before submitting its report.

In Amman, Governor Talat Nawaiesh chaired a meeting of the emergency committee in Amman Governorate and studied the reported damage.

A statement following the meeting said that aid will be distributed to the families af-

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

- * Film entitled "Piano" at the Balkaa Art Gallery, Fuels at 6:00 p.m.
- * Documentary film entitled "Life in the Freezer" (Part 1) at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Abdul Jabbar Salman at Alia Art Gallery.
- * Exhibit entitled "Signs and Symbols: Communication and Interpretation from the Brandywine Workshop" at the American Center.

Health ministry reports 110 AIDS cases

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Health Ministry Tuesday said that the total number of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) cases in Jordan since the discovery of the first case in 1986 has reached 110, adding that most cases were contracted abroad.

Saad Kharabsheh, head of the ministry's Communicable Diseases Department, said in a lecture at a seminar for journalists on the role of the media in helping to prevent the spread of AIDS, that of the registered AIDS cases 80 were Jordanians patients and the rest were patients of other nationalities.

Dr. Kharabsheh said that the AIDS virus is at its early stage of spreading in Jordan, but efforts were underway by the Health Ministry and other organisations to curtail and prevent additional cases.

Health Minister Aref Batayneh told the meeting that AIDS is a killer disease that terrifies various communities, rich or poor, and one for which no effective treatment has been found.

For this reason, said the minister, Jordan relies basically on spreading public awareness through health education on AIDS prevention.

Abdullah Etoun, director of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, urged the media to play a leading role in orienting the public against the dangers of AIDS and methods of protection.

The fact that a relatively few number of AIDS cases have been registered in Jordan so far reflects the efficient and fruitful efforts spearheaded by the Health Ministry in cooperation with other institutions to combat the spread of the disease.

The seminar, organised ahead of World AIDS Day which falls on December 1 each year, discussed means of spreading awareness among the public, the role of the Blood Bank in taking preventive measures and adopting safe blood transfusion procedures as well as the role of the media in helping to stop the spread of the disease.



Minister of Health Aref Batayneh (second left) Tuesday presides over a seminar on the role of the media in helping to spread public awareness on AIDS

June, when it said that 70 Jordanians were tested positive for AIDS 30 more Jordanians visiting the Kingdom at the time were also tested positive.

'Conference to discuss human dimension of Mideast peace process'

Special to the Jordan Times

and representatives of major governmental organisations (NGOs) from around the world.

In the plenary sessions and sub-committee meetings, the participants will discuss peace making and the human dimension in the transition to peace and the role of the U.N. in the aftermath of peace treaties.

Recommendations evolving from the conference will be presented in the concluding session on Sunday.

According to Dr. Armoni, ID is a multi-dimensional organisation that aims to serve as a "thinktank" as well as a training centre for diplomats and those involved in international relations.

The international round-table is sponsored by the newly-established institute and will be its first major event to be undertaken.

The conference (Nov. 12-13) will be attended by prominent intellectuals, officials

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday reviews the status of Jordanian women to municipal and rural communities with Secretary General of the Fourth World Conference on Women Gertrude Mongella, who is currently in Jordan to participate in a related preparatory meeting for the 1995 conference. The meeting was attended by Minister of Social Development, Mohammad Sqour (Petra photo)

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to be over come, ID President Mazen Armoni told a press conference Tuesday.

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The international round-table is sponsored by the newly

Sequel planned for A Fish Called Wanda

By JONATHAN ROBERTS
Times Staff Writer
Tuesday, November 9, 1994
Kiev, Ukraine
Palm trees and pine trees stand tall in the city. The capital has a tropical feel with its palm-lined boulevards and its lush green parks. It's a place where people are happy to be here.

Virgin Mary to see off Spanish prostitutes

By JONATHAN ROBERTS
Times Staff Writer
Tuesday, November 9, 1994
Rome, Italy
Italy's Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has declared a state of emergency and national mourning after severe flooding killed 59 people and left thousands homeless in northern Italy.



Rescue workers carry away victims from the 'Sacra Monte' where five people lost their lives in a landslide following torrential rainfalls. The worst flooding this century left at least 59 people dead and caused widespread damage in Italy (AFP)

Berlusconi pledges aid for flood-ravaged north

ROMA (R) — Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said Tuesday his government would declare a state of emergency and national mourning after severe flooding killed 59 people and left thousands homeless in northern Italy.

Mr. Berlusconi, speaking before the start of cabinet meeting to decide the government's response to the disaster, also pledged to immediately free 400 billion lire (\$260 million) in emergency aid for the worst-hit areas.

The prime minister, facing criticism that the government had reacted slowly, said after a briefing by civil protection authorities that Italy faced "a disastrous situation."

"Let's put the controversies aside because the time to act is now," he said. "Later we can confront the problem of blame."

More rain fell in the northwest part of the country, much of which remained covered with floodwaters and mud — which have caused an estimated \$4 billion of damage.

Streets were littered with wrecked cars and debris swept from houses and businesses. Many rivers were rising several metres above normal levels.

Hundreds of people were cut off from gas and electricity while at least a dozen communities in the worst-hit region of Piedmont were completely isolated because of blocked roads.

Pope John Paul sent his condolences to the flood victims in telegrams to the Archbishops of Turin and nearby Asti, which was also badly affected by the floods.

Thousands of emergency service officials and volunteers continued the clean-up in Piedmont while evacuations were ordered along the banks of Po River for fear flooding could spread to the east and south.

Civil defence authorities said an estimated 8,000 people were left homeless after landslides and flooding from burst rivers buried scores of homes in Piedmont.



Italian rescue workers dig their way through collapsed after a landslide causing the death mud and debris on the site where three houses (AFP photo)

Twenty-seven people were still missing after Piedmont's worst rainstorms for 80 years.

"The local economy has been brought to its knees like after World War II," Giuseppe Pichetto, an industrialist in the Piedmont area, told Il Sole 24 Ore newspaper.

Local government officials estimated damage in Piedmont alone could reach \$3.5 billion with another \$600 million in damages in neighbouring Lombardy.

Crops on half the agricultural land in Piedmont were destroyed and hundreds of factories and businesses remained closed, they said.

Some officials complained of little warning about the danger of floods despite forecasts of torrential rain.

"On Sunday afternoon, when the flood was at its height, all the television did was advise people not to go out in their cars," said the head of Lombardy's Civil Protection Department Alberto Di Luca.

Environmentalists blamed the catastrophe in part on soil erosion caused by widespread deforestation carried out to clear hillsides for farming, tourism and housing.

"Flooding has increased by 50 per cent over the last 18 years, but the annual average rainfall has actually decreased," said the environmental pressure group Greenpeace.

Malakand Division — quoted Mr. Soofi as telling his followers in Matta.

Speaking through a public address system, Mr. Soofi said he had held "successful negotiations" with the authorities on TNSM demands, mainly on the enforcement of Islamic Shariah Laws in the tribal areas, officials said.

Soofi Mohammad, chief of the Tazim Nifaz-e-Shariat (TNSM), called for their release after being escorted to the group's stronghold in the town of Matta in the country's North West Frontier Province, where the captives were held at gunpoint.

The captives included government and police officials as well as judges, held during the six days of bloody fighting between the militants — who are calling for the imposition of Islamic law in the area — and government forces.

"We have reached an agreement with the government and I appeal to you to release the hostages," Deputy Commissioner of the district of Swat — in the Tribal Areas told AFP that armed activists who

had set up positions on nearby hilltops abandoned their posts after the release, while shops in Matta Bazaar started opening in the afternoon as calm returned to the region.

According to an unofficial count about 40 people have died in six days of violence in the region of Malakand.

During the unrest, religious zealots seized several government buildings, paralysed local administrations and barricaded roads, disrupting communications in the area.

Calm returned to the key towns of Mingora and Said Sharif Monday after the TNSM agreed to a ceasefire.

Mr. Soofi toured the region calling for his followers to lay down their arms as the government had agreed to introduce strict Islamic Law to the tribal region which has a population of about 1.5 million.

Details of agreement reached with the government

were not immediately available.

Pakistan's main human rights group Tuesday hit out at the Muslim militants.

The private Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) urged the government to deal "firmly" with fundamentalist unrest in the Malakand region.

"Any thoughtless concessions to the militant clerics, which derivate from the normal laws of the land and norms of human rights will aggravate the plight of the citizens, especially women and minorities," an HRCP statement said.

"It will also create a dangerous precedent which might arouse the ambitions of conservative extremists elsewhere in the country," said the statement, issued by HRCP chief Asma Jahangir.

The group called upon the democratic forces in the country to take a "united stand" against the "forces of anarchy and lawlessness."

that FRELIMO had so far won 52.17 per cent of the parliamentary votes counted compared to RENAMO's 30.27 per cent — on the basis of less than one-third of votes counted.

In the presidential election, the commission gave Mr. Chissano 62.61 per cent of votes counted compared to only 26.52 per cent for Mr. Dhlakama.

Pakistan's Islamic militants release hostages

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AFP) — Islamic militants in northern Pakistan, Tuesday freed scores of hostages unharmed following an appeal from their leader, as peace returned to the trouble-torn area, officials said.

Soofi Mohammad, chief of the Tazim Nifaz-e-Shariat (TNSM), called for their release after being escorted to the group's stronghold in the town of Matta in the country's North West Frontier Province, where the captives were held at gunpoint.

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Zimbabwe presses Mozambique for unity government

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe, wary of a fresh civil war breaking out in neighbouring Mozambique, has increased pressure on President Joaquim Chissano to form a post-election unity government, Zimbabwean official sources said Tuesday.

"We are giving very strong advice that it is in Mozambique's national interest that FRELIMO and RENAMO work together in a government of national unity," one source told Reuters.

"We are counselling for peace and we have been doing it much more in the last few days. Nobody can ever over-emphasise that that is in Mozambique's interest," he added.

Mr. Chissano and his ruling FRELIMO party, which has governed the southern Africa state since it gained independence from Portugal

in 1975, is expected to retain power after a historic general election held late last month.

His main rival, Alfonso Dhlakama of the former rebel RENAMO movement which waged a 16-year guerrilla fight against FRELIMO until 1992, is seen trailing second in the poll.

The first official results released by Mozambique's independent National Electoral Commission Monday showed

that FRELIMO had so far won 52.17 per cent of the parliamentary votes counted compared to RENAMO's 30.27 per cent — on the basis of less than one-third of votes counted.

In the presidential election, the commission gave Mr. Chissano 62.61 per cent of votes counted compared to only 26.52 per cent for Mr. Dhlakama.

Muslim-Serb shelling puts Sarajevo truce in jeopardy

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Intense fighting between Bosnian government and Serb forces has spread into Sarajevo, threatening a nine-month-old truce on the use of heavy weaponry in the capital, U.N. officials said Tuesday.

After two weeks of successful offensive by the Muslim-led government army against Serb positions in northwest and southwest Bosnia, the two sides engaged in an intense, two-hour exchange of heavy weapons fire here late Monday.

There were at least 170 heavy weapon detonations in the course of the firefight in which at least five civilians were wounded on the Bosnian side, along with two soldiers on the Serb side, U.N. sector commander General Herve Gobillard said.

Weapons fired included 82mm and 120mm mortars, both of which are banned from within a 20-kilometre (12.4-mile) radius of the capital, in line with a February shelling truce agreement between warring government and Serb forces.

"If these intense, but usually short-lived firefights develop, they would obviously have a destabilising effect on the military situation here," U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer said.

But he said that the fighting so far was "not significant" in terms of attacks and changes to the confrontation lines.

"We don't think that we've got a serious situation where the whole process around Sarajevo will unravel," he said.

Monday evening's sudden flare-up around the airport, in the western part of the city, followed an artillery duel Saturday night during which Serbs fired mortars impounded by the United Nations at two weapon collection points, in violation of a

Danish U.N. soldiers patrol the streets of Sarajevo after the NATO warned it will strike at any heavy weapons firing within the 20-km radius around the city. The U.N. forces

pressed their calls for a NATO air presence after Bosnian government forces and separatist Serb forces exchanged heavy artillery fire around the Bosnian capital (AFP photo)

Bosnian-held Dobrinja and Serb-held Ilidza.

"The firing is getting closer to the centre of the city, Gen. Gobillard said.

The airport's control tower also came under fire Monday evening and French U.N. soldiers there took to their shelters. Five shells fell inside the airport perimeter, but none hit the runway.

Asked whether NATO fighters could strike at mortars being fired in breach of the total exclusion zone agreement, Gen. Gobillard suggested this would be very difficult.

"I can't really see how we could fire at a target located in the midst of a population whose very protection is our mission," he said.

In the second incident, Serbs tried to set up several artillery pieces in ready-firing positions at another compound.

The evening firefight was mostly centred on confrontation lines around the airport, but shells were also fired into inhabited suburbs, including

the northern suburb of Dobrinja and the southern suburb of Ilidza.

"The firing is getting closer to the centre of the city, Gen. Gobillard said.

The prime minister's office said parliamentarian Patrick Balkany had been speaking only for himself and his state did not reflect Mr. Balladur's intentions.

The incident was an embarrassment for the conservative premier, who has sought to remain above the fray while his fellow Gaullist rival Jacques Chirac, the mayor of Paris, has plunged into premature campaigning by announcing his candidacy.

Thirteen hard core pro-Balladur deputies attended a strategy meeting Tuesday with government spokesman Nicolas Sarkozy and the head of Mr. Balladur's office, Nicolas Bazire, the premier's two closest aides.

Responding indirectly to Mr. Chirac's move, Mr. Balladur said for the first time clearly Monday that he favoured holding a primary election in January to choose a unity candidate for his centre-right coalition.

President Francois Mitterrand has said he doubts primaries would be constitutional and many political commentators doubt they will ever be held, suggesting the entire debate is a tactic to make Mr. Balladur appear as the natural unity candidate and make Mr. Chirac look divisive.

The prime minister has carefully avoided saying he

would be a candidate himself, insisting he is too busy governing the country to address the presidential election next year.

Mr. Chirac has reopened deep wounds in France over European Union by promising voters the final say over plans for a single European currency if they elect him as president next year.

Mr. Chirac's pledge led to the first clash with the government over EU policy by doubling the official time-table for EU economic and monetary union, saying he did not think it possible this century.

Analysts say Mr. Chirac may be better placed than the other likely candidates — Balladur on the right and European Commission President Jacques Delors on the left — to tap continuing unease in France about the EU.

Mr. Delors is one of the main architects of European Union and Mr. Balladur a strong supporter.

The first poll taken since Mr. Chirac announced his third candidacy Friday showed his popularity had risen. Mr. Chirac ran unsuccessfully in 1981 and 1988.

The IFOP poll showed Mr. Chirac had almost caught up with Balladur as the voters' preferred conservative contender with 15 per cent to the premier's 16 per cent. Mr. Delors led them both on 20.

being involved in the genocide," the vice president said.

The slaughter began after President Juvenal Habyarimana of the Hutu majority was killed in a suspicious plane crash on April 6. Rebels of the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) seized power.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has accused troops of the RPF of carrying out mass summary executions of Hutu civilians in reprisals for the genocide.

Gen. Kagame said his government objected to holding the trials in Europe, because European prisons were deemed too comfortable for those found guilty.

Gen. Kagame said setting such a cutoff date would protect the plotters of the genocide, as well as the French, who were the major backers of the ousted Hutu regime.

"It is not only Rwanda who were complicit in the genocide. I think one day we have to accuse the French of

being involved in the genocide," the vice president said.

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Fifteen humanitarian organisations threatened last week to withdraw from the camps unless immediate measures were taken to end the cycle of murder, banditry and intimidation perpetrated by Hutu extremist militias inside the camps.

Opinion & Analysis

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1994

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Transition requires work

WITH THE ratification of the peace treaty with Israel reaching its final stages, the next step awaiting the government is making the necessary changes in the written and unwritten laws and policies of the country to suit the new era as soon as the treaty goes into effect. The easiest part of the work ahead would be amending legislation and official policies of the country that have a bearing on Jordan's past relations with Israel as an enemy state.

Israel now would have to be seen and treated not only as a neighbouring state with which we will soon have diplomatic relations and cooperation agreements. The letter and spirit of the treaty calls for more than cold peace or the establishment of diplomatic ties. The kind of efforts promised envisages the existence of a "warm" relationship. This rather sudden transformation from a state of war and belligerency between the two countries into a state of warm peace could be the hardest to accomplish after so many decades of hostility and animosity between us. No government can successfully change people's long-held perception of another people or their state by the stroke of a pen. The required metamorphosis in the Jordanian perspectives and sentiments towards Israel would obviously take time and hard work. What is needed in this vein is the cultivation of a new culture of peace with not only Israel but also with Jews and Judaism. The creation of such a culture and peaceful coexistence must also be administered in a determined but small dosages so that it could become palatable. This means that changes in our laws, practices and policies must proceed at a relatively slow, albeit sure, speed and begin with the most pressing.

Above all the supporters of all-out peace treaty must endeavour to win over the opposition instead of driving it out of the mainstream political spectrum. This objective can be attained by highlighting the positive features of the treaty and its probable contributions to a better, safer and stronger Jordan. At the same time, it would be self-defeating to keep on denying the enormity of the gap that has to be bridged between the two diametrically opposed perspectives over the issue of ties with Israel. This is a gigantic task that nevertheless has to be undertaken. At stake is no less than translating in practical terms the call on the minority to accept the views and decisions of the majority.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Tuesday warned the Arab Nation against Israel's continued attempts to change the character of the holy places in Palestine, citing the example of the Al Ibrahim Mosque in occupied Hebron. The Israelis have reopened the mosque after closing it in February, following the massacre of Muslim worshippers at the hand of a Jewish settler but they have partitioned the holy site, giving half of it to the Jews and establishing a Jewish synagogue at the site, said the paper. The partition of the mosque should not be condoned and should not be allowed to continue, said the paper, noting that the move could serve as a precedent for Jews to partition other Christian and Muslim holy places in other parts of occupied Palestine. It is enough for us to examine maps in the hands of Israeli school children to find that all Arab cities and holy shrines remain as a target for Zionism and it is enough to see that all the public places and streets of Arab Palestinian towns have been given Jewish names, the paper pointed out. It should not be forgotten, said the paper, that the Ibrahim Mosque and the city of Hebron are part of the Palestinian lands occupied by Israel since 1967. It should be noted, added the paper, that U.N. resolutions, on which the whole peace process hinges, requires the Israelis to pull out from the occupied lands in exchange for peace.

IRAQ HAS taken a very practical step by announcing that no problem exists between Baghdad and Tel Aviv, said Saleh Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour Tuesday. Iraq has no common border with Israel, like the Gulf states, has no reason to maintain the state of belligerency with the Jewish state after the confrontation countries have taken steps to end their conflict with Israel, said the writer. Indeed, no Arab party consulted with Baghdad before moving towards peace with Israel and no one has asked Baghdad to participate in any moves towards shaping up the future of the new Arab order, said Mr. Qallab. The Palestinians, the Jordanians and the Egyptians have taken moves towards peace with Israel and the Syrians and the Lebanese are on their way to follow suit, continued the writer. Therefore, there was nothing left for the Iraqis but to follow the example of the Arab states, which do not have common borders with Israel, and which are now making moves to establish relations with the Jewish state, said the writer. The Iraqi move, he added, could have come as a shock to some Arabs but, with national dreams aside, one can only say that Baghdad had taken a practical step that is most reasonable under the present circumstances.



Yitzhak Rabin's conversion to the quest for peace

By Peretz Kidron

UNTIL RECENTLY, only a satirist would have cast Yitzhak Rabin in the role of candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize. The biography of "Mister Security" hardly seemed to foreshadow such an honour. An active army career spanning two and a half decades brought him glory as military commander, never as peace-maker. His 1948 exploits included ejection of almost the entire Arab population of Lydda and Ramle. When he was head of the Israeli army's Northern Command in 1960s, his forces waged running battles with the Syrians for control of water sources. As commander-in-chief in 1967, his bellicose threats to overthrow the Damascus regime helped drive up the tension that finally erupted into war. As defence minister, he issued the notorious "break their arms and legs" guidelines for crushing the Palestinian intifada.

Even when holding no formal military office, Mr. Rabin remained an advocate of massive and brutal force, with few scruples about non-combatants. As ambassador to Washington in the late '60s, he bombarded the Israeli government with cables urging escalation of bombing raids on "strategic" (i.e. civilian) targets in Egypt's interior, so as to induce the Egyptian army to call off its war of attrition along the Suez Canal. During the 1982 siege of Beirut, Mr. Rabin — formally in opposition — volunteered advice to Defense Minister Ariel Sharon to "tighten the screw" on the city by cutting off its water and electricity.

With such consistent espousal of unbridled force to promote national interests, it seems unjust, if not downright bizarre, that Mr. Rabin's current policies have rendered him anathema to Israeli hard-liners. An erstwhile target of peace protesters, Mr. Rabin now features on right-wing posters in Arafat-style Arab head-dress, captioned with the single word: "Traitor". Does this altered public image reflect a change of heart?

The "Rabin enigma"

Commentators seeking to unravel the "Rabin enigma" often fall back on historical analogy. They recall Charles de Gaulle, who instigated the campaign of

repression against Algerian nationalists but later returned to office to make his "peace of the brave" with the FLN. Others note Mr. Rabin's admiration for Richard Nixon — leader of the "China lobby" whose domination of U.S. policy in Asia in the 1950s and '60s isolated mainland China and spawned the Vietnam war; the same Nixon later attained "statesman" stature for his role in getting the U.S. out of Vietnam and instituting detente with Beijing.

These parallels illustrate a pattern whereby a nationalist politician draws his country into a treacherous minefield, and then, as disaster looms, reaps the credit for defusing the charges he himself laid. It may be argued that only a leader of impeccable "patriotic" credentials can extract his country from such a no-win morass. Mr. Rabin himself, though never conceding error in backing the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, ultimately supervised the Israeli Army's withdrawal from most of that country, and has reportedly offered to cede the Israeli-controlled "security zone" in the south in an overall peace settlement with Syria.

And how did a man notorious for his "Syrian fixation" come to contemplate a peace deal with Damascus? Some Rabin-watchers attribute it to age: now in his seventies, he may wish to be remembered like some judge of antiquity whose career the Bible sums up with: "And the land had rest for forty years". But such poetic ambitions do not sit well with the gruff, unsentimental Rabin. If he has altered course, it must be due to his perception of reality. Unlike his colleague and rival, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Mr. Rabin has few intellectual pretensions; but admirers laud his "analytical thinking" — a ruthless facility for eliminating all illusory options until he is left with the sole feasible course of action, however distasteful.

This trait stands out in Mr. Rabin's change of course towards the Palestinians. He is a long-time foe of Palestinian national aspirations, and, as manifested at the September 1993 ceremony on the White House lawn, feels political revision for Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Over the years, Mr. Rabin explored every mode

of dealing with the "Palestinian problem": ruthless repression's, supplanting the PLO with quisling substitutes. But when it got through to him that nothing else was feasible, he bit the bullet and extended his hand to the PLO leader.

Political and military objectives

Mr. Rabin seems to have been weaned away from his anti-Syrian fervour by a similar process of elimination, leading him to consider a far-reaching deal with Damascus. According to the strategic expert Aluf Benn, Mr. Rabin's proposals run well beyond the security clauses in Israel's peace treaty with Egypt, offering Syria a comprehensive security package to include arms control, demilitarisation on both sides of the border, mutual reductions in military forces, and a "control" and verification mechanism comprising a multinational peacekeeping force, early warning stations and mutual inspections.

In a succinct analysis in Ha'aretz, Benn claims that Syria and Israel are ripe for such measures by virtue of a "strategic paralysis", with each side aware of the "intolerable price" of an attack on the other. Benn backs this view with quotes from hitherto unpublished lectures that Mr. Rabin delivered in the '80s (the audience is not specified, but may have been the Israeli Army's general staff). In 1987, four years before the Gulf war, Mr. Rabin pointed to the ballistic missile threat.

"The war we must prepare for is unlike those of the past... with significant stress on the prospect of attack on the civilian rear." A year later, when Iraqi missile attacks on Iranian cities forced Tehran to seek a ceasefire, Mr. Rabin expanded his caveats about Israel's vulnerability into a dark vision of national and political doom, suggesting that attacks on its civilians could "arouse division within the population, which is liable to erode the national consensus of support for those conducting the war... with no inconsiderable harm to unity."

In recent months, Mr. Rabin's sombre strategic forecasts have underlined the need for a comprehensive political settlement. Noting that the Arabs have pinpointed Israel's "Achilles heel", he warned that its travails in the Gulf war

would be mere child's play against the threat posed by Syria's surface-to-surface missiles.

Mr. Rabin's lectures also marked a major departure from conventional Israeli strategic strikes, whether for "a political objective which I don't think is attainable", or for destroying an enemy's military capabilities "with the sole aim of a stay" for a period of time which is "dubious".

Should "war be forced upon us," Mr. Rabin set out his strategic aim: to force the enemy "to request a ceasefire without achieving any territorial gain." Within the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict, such a request from an Arab state "signifies both military and political surrender, conceding the failure of its military effort." Mr. Rabin used a similar military-political formula in defining the Israeli Army's defensive role: "There is no effective deterrent unless the other side is convinced that going to war will entail grave harm to itself... posing a question mark over the regime's ability to retain office."

But Israel's ability to inflict such punishment by conventional means is gravely constrained by Syria's massive ground forces and missile arsenal. In Benn's words: "An assault on the dense fence system between the Golan and Damascus would be a nightmare with heavy casualties", while "the Scud missiles aimed at Tel Aviv have turned all of Israel into a battlefield".

These are the cataclysmic visions lying behind General Rabin's conversion to the quest for peace — not as high-minded ideal, but as "pursuit of policy by other means". All other options having been eliminated as impractical or too costly, the only remaining policy to pursue in peace.

There is nothing humane in Mr. Rabin's thinking, merely cold-blooded calculation of strategic and political odds. As such, it may not deserve the acclaim of a Nobel award. But then, the list of past laureates includes such names as Henry Kissinger, Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin — none of whom fits neatly into the category of humanist. His words and deeds suggest that Yitzhak Rabin may not be out of place in the pantheon of peace.

In short, Jordan's economy is in a precarious situation due to the wait-and-see mood associated with the ongoing peace process is exaggerated. It is true that remittances from Jordanian expatriates fell dramatically in the aftermath of the repatriation of Jordanian expatriates from Kuwait and to a lesser degree from other Gulf states. Yet, the fact is that the return of these expatriates has been more of a blessing to Jordan's economy than a disaster. No one can overlook the construction boom which these returnees caused as a result of their considerable investments in the building and housing sector. Such activity reflected positively on the other fields of the local economy, particularly insofar as more badly needed job opportunities were created.

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LETTERS

Iraq cannot be ignored

To the Editor:

ALMOST 30 years ago during my time of service in Africa I made a public statement saying "the dreams of Moshe Dayan and Abba Eban of having direct negotiations with the Arabs are dreams never to come true."

Well, now, I must admit, I was wrong and the dream has become a reality.

As a result of this, our hostile attitude of 50 years has to change. Being a proud Arab I am trying to swallow this lump and educate my children about the necessary change of heart and attitude. Thus I am compelled to depart from my political party's attitude and open my mouth.

Two things I wish to refer to:
1. Last week on the eve of the visit of the Turkish Prime Minister to Israel, the Israeli television interviewed the ambassador of Turkey to Israel on the morning show. This is quite a normal thing to do on such an occasion, except for the fact that the last question, which I noticed, was not very comforting to the ambassador. "What can we do together against our common enemy Iraq?"

The ambassador, an able diplomat, answered correctly about commercial and political relations with Iraq.

2. The second point that I wish to refer to was carried by the Jordan Times of Nov. 6, about remarks made by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres about Iraq and, without going in details, I say were very ironic.

May I just ask the Israeli television and Mr. Peres to try to show a change of attitude towards Iraq without contradictions.

Since we are all talking about the sons of Abraham, let us not forget that the Arab culture has lots of forgiveness. After tribal killings, we kiss and forget.

So please join us and show a more friendly attitude towards Iraq without discrimination as this country and its people can never be ignored.

Wael Saleem Karadshieh,
Amman.

Revitalising the economy

To the Editor:

FEARS ABOUT Jordan's future as a heavily debt-ridden country are a poor argument for economic prostration. But a prudent wait-and-see approach will be needed in light of the economic environment and other macroeconomic factors. True, the local moneymen seem to have found something relatively new to worry about. Oddly enough, and with the launching of the Middle East peace process, share and property prices have undergone a series of ups and downs. Naturally, such changes are reflections of the public mood vis-a-vis the political developments both locally and regionally. The statements and assurances issued by the respective statesmen and policymakers in Jordan are important instruments of shaping the desired economic status quo. However, many worry that excessive statements and assurances by the concerned statesmen may give a wrong message to some market-oriented business people. They note gloomily that similar assurances were given prior to the financial crisis that took the man in the street by dismay and surprise in 1988.

But the assertion is dubious. It is generally agreed that the 1988 economic crisis cannot and will by no means be repeated. Jordan's economic history has long been a successful struggle to reconcile the odds under a heavy debt burden in a volatile Middle East. It has admirably managed to maintain significant growth rates, encourage privatisation and free enterprise and promote export-oriented businesses and industries. Indeed, Jordan has done perfectly well with limited resources ever since the 1988 financial crisis took place. It is now developing a solid financial industry spearheaded by the Amman Financial Market (AFM). Without the presence of the AFM, companies would have been deprived of the opportunity to issue bonds, shares and securities.

The claim that Jordan's economy is in a precarious situation due to the wait-and-see mood associated with the ongoing peace process is exaggerated. It is true that remittances from Jordanian expatriates fell dramatically in the aftermath of the repatriation of Jordanian expatriates from Kuwait and to a lesser degree from other Gulf states. Yet, the fact is that the return of these expatriates has been more of a blessing to Jordan's economy than a disaster. No one can overlook the construction boom which these returnees caused as a result of their considerable investments in the building and housing sector. Such activity reflected positively on the other fields of the local economy, particularly insofar as more badly needed job opportunities were created.

In short, Jordan's economy is in a precarious situation due to the wait-and-see mood associated with

Features



Meeting reviews arms control

(Continued from page 1)

only said that it would not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons to the Middle East.

The head of the Israeli delegation, Major-General David Ivry, hinted, however, his country, widely believed to possess more than 200 nuclear warheads, would be willing to address the nuclear fears of the countries of the region at the "appropriate time."

Israeli delegates also said that the absence of key countries such as Syria, Iraq, Iran and Libya limited the scope of the work of the multilateral working group on arms control, one of five, and urged them to join the discussions.

"We're looking forward to cooperating with Arab countries on the whole range of security issues, and we would like to find how this process addresses our concerns and those of everybody else," Gen. Ivry told the Associated Press.

Gen. Ivry said: "We've repeatedly made statements that we see this process creating the climate and the atmosphere that will make it possible to deal satisfactorily with this issue at the appropriate time."

"There are interesting ideas on the table, not only for exchanging information or for cooperating in certain areas, visits contacts, voluntary information exchange, they are very important," said Mr. Ivry, director-general of Israel's Defence Ministry and a former air force commander.

Frederick Axelgard, a senior U.S. State Department official and veteran of arms control negotiations, said the issue of nuclear weapons was not expected to be addressed during the current meeting.

"The issue will be discussed what we call our common basket," he told the Dead Sea meeting's opening session, and we've divided up the task of discussing each of the weapons of mass

destruction."

Before the meeting opened, Dr. Touqan expressed hope that Israel would soon join a ban on nuclear weapons.

"Next year, there is going to be a lot of conventions and treaties, and I hope that Israel will re-look into all of those and will start considering the importance of its joining in," Dr. Touqan was quoted as saying by Reuters.

The issue of Israel's nuclear weapons and related programmes was raised in the meetings of the regional working group on the environment, which said it feared Israeli dumping of radioactive material in the desert could be a main source of pollution in the area.

But Israel resisted the Egyptian demands, saying the issue of nuclear programmes could not be discussed by the working group on environment but by the group on arms control and security.

Gen. Ivry, the Israeli ministry officials, told Tuesday's opening session that his country sought to "broaden the dialogue further to accommodate all states of the region not before too long."

That appeared to be a reference to regional powers like Iraq, Iran and Syria which are not yet part of the quest for military stability in the Middle East.

Gen. Ivry also told reporters that the absence of key countries "limits" the scope of the work of the working group and that "if they came in and joined us, we could be more productive."

Countries participating in the meeting include Egypt, France, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, the Netherlands, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen, as well as the U.S. and Russia, co-sponsors of the three-year-old Arab-Israeli peace process.

The Dead Sea meeting comes ahead of a full session of the working group on regional arms control and security to be held in Tunis on Dec. 15.

Kuwait announces Iraqi move

(Continued from page 1)

Kuwait) will be solved."

He stressed the recognition "should be completed by the implementation of remaining U.N. Security Council resolutions... so there will be security in the region."

The Security Council is to review the sanctions against Iraq next Monday, as it has done every two months since they were imposed.

The review will be preceded by an oral presentation on Friday by Rolf Ekeus, the head of a special U.N. commission monitoring Iraq's military capability.

U.N. diplomats here said several members of the Security Council, including China, France and Russia, would seek to have the oil embargo against Iraq lifted in six months if Baghdad agreed to recognise Kuwait's borders.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said at the time Mr. Koeyev's role in securing the Iraqi offer to recognise Kuwait was "misguided and constitutes an impudent reward" for the Iraqi step back.

Baghdad later rolled back its deployment.

The Arab League Tuesday announced the announcement in Moscow.

Speaking in Cairo, Arab League Secretary-General Abd al-Malik Meguid said the Iraqi decision was "the beginning of a process which hopefully will lead to a normal situation in the area and that the consequences of the 1990 (invasion of

Israel to ease blockade

(Continued from page 1)

Implementation of democracy by holding simultaneous polls on elections and military redeployment. This pushback is due to a vote by the eve of a vote but Mr. Rabin had earlier stated that the election date be finalised before any redeployment talks.

The vote was set for July 13, 1993, the 1993 declaration of principles for self-rule but dates off until next year as

events raged about the

West Bank regarding Jordan, where people have already started to develop positions.

That is not to say that a clear-cut polarisation is evolving. There has been no opinion polls, partly because the issue is so sensitive, complex and even explosive. Polling experts admit that the issue goes far beyond a simple pro or against Jordanian role if the situation continues to deteriorate.

Consequently, it is important to observe how people develop positions

Building a model school with international dimension

FOLLOWING IS the text of a speech that Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath gave at the inauguration ceremony of the Sports Complex of the Amman Baccalaureate School Monday. The ceremony was attended by His Majesty King Hussein, Her Majesty Queen Noor, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and other officials. Princess Sarvath is the Chairperson of the school's Board of Trustees.

Your Majesty, Ladies and Gentlemen,

THE AMMAN Baccalaureate School was founded with the intention that it should be a model national school but with an international dimension and as such, bilingualism became central to the school's academic policy; indeed to the very spirit of the school. And it is in keeping with this same spirit that I have attempted to speak bilingually. The school has always striven to combine academic achievement with creativity and innovation, and to provide our students, not merely with "qualifications" but with a truly rounded "education." It has contributed to an awareness of the potential of education within the country, and of the stan-

dards attainable. Many new schools have been set up in our wake, and programmes developed by the school such as the Crown Prince Award, have expanded to become national schemes. Our graduates are a source of pride not only to us, but to Jordan, whom they represent admirably at some of the finest universities worldwide.

Having pioneered so much in the academic and cultural fields, it was appropriate for the school to also provide the best possible sports facilities, for the benefit of both physique and the charter. A 19th century sportsman once said that: "Games require patience, good temper, perseverance, good pluck and above all implicit obedience; that it was no bad training for a child to

be skinned at football or given out wrongly at cricket and to be able to take the affliction quietly, with good temper and a gracious spirit.... For it is as much sportsmanship, as well as a superb training in the sports that we seek to impart to our students through these facilities. That this dream of a sports complex to help us achieve these goals has finally come true is entirely due to the very generous help of our friends, who have always kept faith with us, as well as the unstinting efforts and support of the entire ABS community. If our premises are impressive or even luxurious, it is not only because the Hashemite Society for Education always aims to set the highest standards in everything that it undertakes, but because it is also our hope that this sports complex, will, *Inshallah*, contribute to the development of school sports in the Kingdom as a whole. We hope to see other institutions availing themselves of our facilities and look forward to our halls and fields being as central to the sporting life of Jordan as our theatre has become a focus of its cultural life.

Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath



London becomes a haven for fundamentalist dissidents

By Michael Binyon

LONDON HAS become one of the world's most important havens for Islamic fundamentalist dissidents. Whereas Paris used to offer sanctuary to opponents of communist and other totalitarian governments, Britain is where radical opponents of moderate Muslim government are plotting their overthrow.

Under liberal asylum laws that do little to curb the political activities of those allowed to stay in Britain, an increasing number of hardline groups intent on combating Western values and influence and setting up Islamic republics in their countries are operating from London offices, protected by the democratic institutions they are intent on overthrowing at home.

Members of many of the world's most notorious extremist groups have arrived in London recently to take advantage of the good communications and media concentration, knowing that they must not break British law.

They include men such as Ahmad Al Massari, a Saudi fundamentalist who heads the so-called committee for Defence of Legitimate Rights which is working for the overthrow of the Saudi monarchy; Rashid Ghanouchi, leader of the banned Tunisian Islamic Party An Nahda, who has been accused of masterminding a bomb attack that injured several British tourists in Tunisia; supporters of Algerian Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) which has

ordered the killing of foreigners in Algeria and is engaged in a civil war that has taken up to 25,000 lives; and members of Hamas, the radical Palestinian group which claimed responsibility for the Tel Aviv bus bomb that killed 26.

Most of the radicals are working against Muslim governments that Britain considers friendly and moderate. Angry and frustrated, those governments are urging Britain to outlaw or expel these groups, and have taken up the cases of individual dissidents at the highest level, with the Prime Minister or Foreign Secretary. Concerned at the damage this could cause to Britain or abroad and so endanger national security or public order, their stay may be curtailed or they may be deported.

The attempted deportation of Kani Yilmaz, a leader of the Kurdish PKK group, underlines the explicit link to violence — though not necessarily to Islamic fundamentalism — of these groups.

More than 60 members of the PKK were deported last year after being accused of intimidating Turks in Britain. However, Britain turned down a request from Ankara to outlaw the PKK.

Another group active in Britain is the Iranian People's Mujahideen, known in the West as the National Council of Resistance and linked to the Iraq-based National Liberation Army.

The Home Office has traditionally been reluctant to make deportation orders it could not uphold in court. Douglas Hurd, as foreign secretary, knows that an attempt, even if

unsuccessful, to deport political activists would reassure worried foreign governments, and would allow the government to point to the independence of the courts. But as a former home secretary, he is reluctant to suggest such a thing to Michael Howard.

Some attempt has been made to tighten restrictions. After protests from France, the government has looked carefully at the activities of FIS members here; applications for asylum by Algerians are routinely referred to MI5.

Those granted asylum are now given an explicit warning that if they support or conspire to cause violence whether in Britain or abroad and so endanger national security or public order, their stay may be curtailed or they may be deported.

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France's Chirac announces candidacy, risks burn-out

By Paul Taylor
Reuter

PARIS — Gaullist Party leader Jacques Chirac Friday became the first major contender to declare his candidacy for next year's French presidential election, rushing into the race six months before the ballot.

Mr. Chirac, who is mayor of Paris, said France was in a "state of emergency" because of record unemployment and needed "a real policy of change."

Twice defeated for the presidency in 1981 and 1988, he took the risk of an early burn-out because he is trailing a distant third in opinion polls behind fellow Gaullist Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Socialist European Commission President Jacques Delors.

Mr. Chirac's surprise announcement in a provincial newspaper rather than in the customary television address upset the calendar that Mr. Balladur set when he asked the centre-right coalition to wait until January before opening the campaign.

Balladur supporters branded the move premature and divisive. Pro-Balladur RPR deputy Patrick Devidian called it a non-event.

"Between the risks of a clean-break policy that would sow disorder and the comfort of lukewarm policies that would plunge our country into lethargic decline, common sense imposes the need for change," he said.

More nationalistic and interventionist than Mr. Balladur, Mr. Chirac is close to France's farm lobby. Last month, he described the plan for a single European currency as "inappropriate."

"Things are now clear. the debate can start," close Chirac aide Jean-Louis Debré said. In a swipe at Mr. Balladur, he added:

"Those who have nothing to say want to delay the campaign as long as possible."

Mr. Debré added that Mr. Balladur would be well-advised to stick to governing the country and not enter the presidential race.

Mr. Balladur's senior advisers met on Friday morning but made no statement and put on display

of "business as usual."

Hubble space telescope proves indispensable

By Emmanuel Serot
Agence France Presse

WASHINGTON —

The Hubble space telescope, its faulty lens fixed a year ago, has fast-forwarded astronomical discoveries into commonplace events, leaving behind centuries of slowly evolved theories.

In a series of dazzling discoveries, Hubble picked up the impending collision of a comet with Jupiter, allowing scientists for the first time to observe such a crash; uncovered black holes; and gathered data revising theories on the universe's age.

The space telescope has become indispensable to astronomers since NASA corrected its technical problems in a spacewalking repair mission last November.

"Yes, this is a big victory. This is the first time we've been able to capture Phom Vor (Vine Mountain)," said Brigadier-General Prum Savoeun, speaking at his base in a Coconut Grove about 20 km east of Kampot town.

The powerful eye in space helped a team of Cali-

fornia astronomers to calculate the distance between Earth and a faraway galaxy with unprecedented precision.

Steve Maran of the American Astronomical Association says data gathered by Hubble is "the first reliable measurement" for estimating the age of the universe.

Hubble — a huge cylinder 13 metres long and weighing more than a dozen tonnes — is just doing its job: helping scientists to accurately measure distant bodies in the universe.

Recently it transmitted images of the planet Uranus and its rings, which had not been visible since the Voyager-2 probe mission a decade ago.

Last month the telescope spotted an unexpected astral phenomenon some 166,000 light years away from Earth: two star clusters strangely close. The discovery advances theories on star formations.

And Hubble starred in the collision of the Shoemaker-Levy-9 comet with Jupiter last July. The powerful eye in space helped a team of Cali-

fornia astronomers to calculate the distance between Earth and a faraway galaxy with unprecedented precision.

Another show is expected soon when Hubble begins looking at Saturn's moon Titan.

"Hubble has already made a great contribution to cosmology. We now know that we can rely on it. It is a decisive step forward for science," said Mr. Maran.

Astronomers have asked the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to build a new camera for the Hubble because its current technology is outdated, he said. "It is possible to get even sharper pictures."

But for NASA's critics who believe the space agency is overfunded, Hubble is the perfect target.

Jointly built by NASA and the European Space Agency and placed in orbit in 1990, the telescope delivered only fuzzy data until its lens was fixed. NASA has spent \$1.5 billion on the unique instrument.

Kuwait arms purchases curbed by budget deficit

KUWAIT (R) — Western allies made fresh weapons sales to Kuwait amid recent tension with Iraq, but big windfall purchases were few largely because the emirate's growing budget deficit inspires spending caution, experts say.

The largest sale occurred at the start of the border confrontation when the Pentagon said Kuwait planned to buy 16 AH-64 Apache helicopters and missiles and rockets for \$692 million.

But a Pentagon statement said there was no connection between the Kuwaiti move and the Iraqi border buildup that triggered the despatch of large U.S. forces to the Gulf.

That aside, there were only slim pickings for a world arms industry increasingly reliant on wealthy Gulf states like Kuwait, the world's biggest spender on defence in per capita terms since its 1991 liberation from Iraqi occupation.

The emir expects a 1.5 billion dinar (\$3 billion) budget deficit in the 1993/94 fiscal year, more than a quarter of national wealth as measured by gross domestic product, and expects the shortfall to keep rising for the next five years.

Kuwait has enough state investments to cover about 10 years' worth of such deficits, but that would deplete assets meant to be saved up for the benefit of future generations.

Total budgeted defence and security spending including procurement also comes to about 1.5 billion dinars — "a high and unbearable level, which might now increase," wrote economist Jassim Al Saadoun at the height of last month's flareup.

Apart from financial constraints, diplomats say military procurement planning is undeveloped and underfunded and officials struggle to administer big post-Gulf war purchases.

"The picture on sales was fairly fuzzy before the latest crisis, and it is still fuzzy now," said one defence expert.

"The Kuwaitis are still struggling to modernise and if you look at what they had already committed themselves to over the past two years, it means a huge amount of money. The real story is whether they can manage to organise it all."

Kuwait is already spending several billion dollars on tanks, armoured fighting vehicles, air defence missiles and warplanes to rebuild armed forces destroyed in Iraq's 1990-91 occupation.

Also, defence sales have become controversial. Opposition members of parliament have attacked post-war defence procurement as profiteering, secretive and occasionally corrupt.

Kuwait's main purchases

over the past month include an agreement with Britain for the supply of £50 million (\$80 million) worth of Starburst air defence missiles.

Defence sources said Kuwait was also spending between \$30 million and \$40 million on shells for its Yugoslav-made M-84 tanks, because during the October emergency the army found some units lacked adequate supplies.

The future is not entirely bleak for arms salesmen. Kuwait is expected to seek the expedited delivery of Russian BMP-3 armoured cars and Smerch multi-launch rocket systems costing a total of 400 million to \$500 million.

It has also bought chemical warfare suits from Britain last month and is looking at U.S. thermal-imaging night vision equipment for fortification on the Iraq border and for installation in the Russian BMP-3s, defence experts say.

Big purchases diplomats say are in prospect in the next year or two include the supply of 16 American Blackhawk helicopters for about \$500 million and the purchase from France of up to eight fast patrol boats worth at least \$270 million.

Diplomats say Kuwait is also considering the purchase late in the 1990s of an air defence radar, six missile attack boats and 24 self-propelled howitzers.

Mitterrand attacks World Bank role in Africa

BIARRITZ, France (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand told the World Bank Tuesday to be more "humble", accusing it of playing a hypocritical role in Africa.

In a sharp attack on the Washington-based institution at the opening of the Franco-African summit, he told the bank to concentrate on making money if that was how it saw its job.

"That is very good for the bank but let her then limit her role to that of banker and not claim to be a guardian of orthodoxy and a judge of what is good or bad for the people from the height of which pedestal would she do that?" he said.

Under Mr. Mitterrand's 13-year reign, France has often chafed at the bank's policies on Africa with officials portraying it as dominated by the United States.

Pressure from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was instrumental in forcing France to abandon its support for a strong CFA franc.



Francois Mitterrand

the common currency in 14 African countries linked to the French franc.

Last January the CFA was devalued by 50 per cent, the first change in parity since 1948.

Before the Franco-African summit, Mr. Mitterrand's last before he retires next May, French officials have accused the World Bank of failing miserably to honour financial pledges to CFA countries following the devaluation.

"Like other institutions, the World Bank has its share of successes and failures from which it should draw lessons of humility," Mr. Mitterrand told African presidents at the start of the two-day summit.

Staunchly defending France as the most generous industrial power, he said his country gave 3.4 times more aid to Africa than the World Bank did.

Privatisation to spur investment influx to S. Arabia

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Saudi Arabia's plans to privatise key government institutions will likely trigger an investment influx that will help it offset economic damage caused by low oil prices, experts have said.

Although foreign investors will face restrictions on full ownership, they will still benefit largely from entering joint ventures with the Saudi private sector given the incentive it receives from the government.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, announced early this year it would sell several public facilities and open its petrochemical and refining industries to the private sector in a bid to revive its economy which has sharply slowed down because of a decline in crude prices.

The kingdom has also announced a set of new incentives for the private sector within its: 1995-2000 development plan to encourage it to bring back its funds abroad although the plan has set no investment target.

"There is no doubt all these measures by the Saudi government will open up a vast scope for foreign investors to enter joint projects

with the Saudi private sector. This will benefit all parties," the Kuwait-based Arab Corporation for Investment Guarantee (ACIG) said in a study.

Saudi Arabia started to encourage the private sector after oil prices began to climb down in the mid 1980s. Such a trend gained momentum after the kingdom started to offer joint ventures with the Saudi private sector given the incentive it receives from the government.

King Fahd conceded last year his Gulf nation was suffering from cash shortages because of costs linked to the 1991 Gulf war. But he had repeatedly insisted the economy was sound and privatisation plans would go ahead.

Such plans will likely cover the telephone and electricity and water sectors, airport services, the national airlines Saudi and refining and petrochemicals. Three months ago, the government said it would sell nearly half its 70 per cent stake in the industrial giant SABIC, which has a capital of 10 billion Saudi riyals (\$2.66 billion).

"I expect privatisation in Saudi Arabia to be successful given the high liquidity in the local market and the huge resources of the private sector internally and abroad," said Yusuf Khalifa, an economics professor at the Emirates University.

"This will open the door for the establishment of new

Russian president names reformer Yasin as new economics minister

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin Tuesday named Yevgeny Yasin as new Russian economics minister, a presidential spokesman said.

Mr. Yasin was head of the president's Centre for Economic Analysis and has taken part in the preparatory work for most of Russia's economic reform programmes. He has a reputation as a reformer and replaces Alexander Shokhin, who quit last week.

Mr. Yasin, 50, is the second member of Mr. Yeltsin's own economic team to join the Russian government in the last week. Mr. Yeltsin last week named Vladimir Panskov as finance minister.

Mr. Yasin is a professional economist and was one of the authors of a radical 500-day programme which was the first attempt to create a market economic system in the Soviet Union. He is not affiliated with any Russian political party.

Mr. Shokhin, who was also Russia's chief debt negotiator, said he was quitting because he had not been consulted over Mr. Panskov's appointment. His departure was the latest in a series of

government changes since Russia's "black Tuesday," when the ruble crashed to all time lows against the dollar.

Russian banks have pleaded not guilty to triggering last month's ruble crash, portraying themselves as playing an innocent part in a market game.

"The Association of Russian Banks protests strongly against attempts to pin responsibility (for the ruble crash) on the commercial banking systems," said a statement released at a news conference.

The central bank promised to set up a special commission to check the balance sheets of commercial banks.

The comments followed bitter criticism of Russia's banking system from the Russian Security Council, which met to consider Russia's "black Tuesday" of Oct. 11 when the ruble crashed to new lows of 3,926 against the dollar.

It has since recovered to around 3,100 per dollar.

The council includes top officials from the so-called power ministries of defence and security forces.

It recommended the setting up of a commission to investigate banks' activities and to discuss whether those who took part in what it said was "illegal speculation" could lose their licences to trade convertible currencies.

The Economic Planning Agency (EPA), which had to make a humiliating row-back from a premature declaration of recovery in June 1993, said in its latest monthly report that the economy was still on its way to recovery but took its assessment of industrial output one step further.

"It (industrial output) is on a gradual increasing trend," the Economic Planning Agency said. It was a subtle step away from a phrase like "signs of (industrial output) picking up can be seen," used in last month's report.

Industrial production in July-September rose a preliminary 1.6 per cent quarter-on-quarter and 1.5 per cent year-on-year. It is also projected to grow in the October-December quarter, the EPA said.

However, private economists were not so sanguine. "Demand is not keeping up with production," said Nabuya Nemoto, economist

at Nomura Research Institute. "I agree the government is watching how and when private consumption and investment will really ignite, but I wonder whether they will really take off."

Mr. Nemoto said recovery in consumer spending and capital investment may take longer than the government had initially expected, until the April-June quarter of 1995.

Economists said a dip in September household spending and department store sales showed the economy was slowing, after the temporary effects of the hot summer and tax cuts had waned.

The cautious EPA stopped short of proclaiming a full-fledged economic recovery. "We are not confident enough to say private demand such as consumption and investment has turned stable, staying at a high level. But this does not mean our assessment has retreated," an EPA official said.

But some economists did not agree. "It seems the brightness in the economy is now fading out again. The brightest time was probably two months ago," said Shun-

suke Motani, senior probably two months ago," said Shunsuke Motani, senior economist at Deutsche Bank Research, referring to the strength in consumption then.

"Basing a recovery on an increase in production will be ignoring the real weakness in demand. Shipment is falling at a faster pace and inventories are piling up," Mr. Motani said.

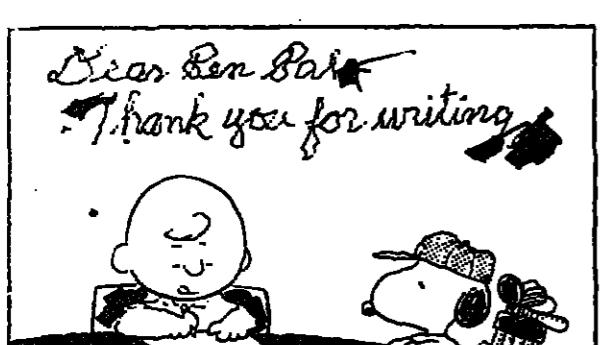
September shipments fell 3.0 per cent while inventories rose by 1.5 per cent month-on-month.

The yen's continuing strength was seen as another factor likely to suppress corporate activity.

Separately, the EPA Tuesday released a report on regional business leaders' views on the economy, which said many regional representatives were still cautious about the outlook as the high yen was hampering corporate profits.

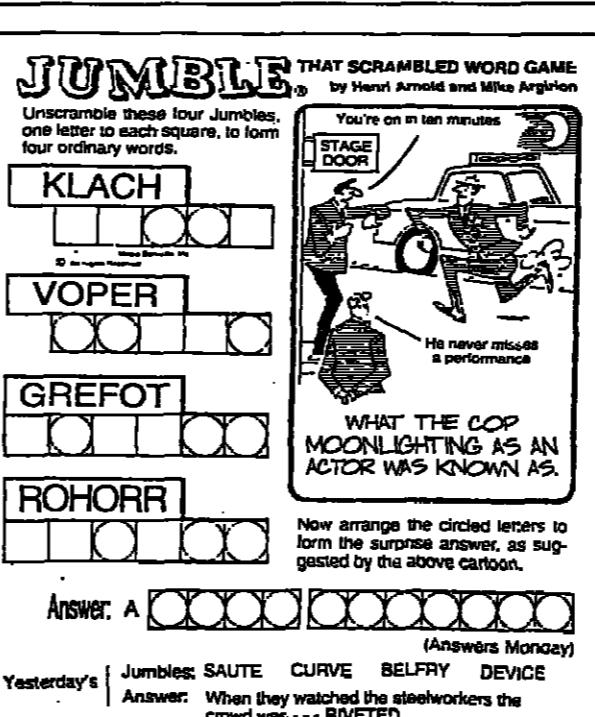
For example, the northern island of Hokkaido, where the fishery industry had long been hit by the yen's appreciation, reported the region was not about to see a recovery soon, although its economy had hit bottom.

Peanuts



"The big silverware makes our food look smaller so we'll think we're dieting!"

Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



spur

to S. Arab.

Business & Finance

Financial Markets Jordan Times
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Current	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound	1.6145	1.6153
Deutsche Mark	1.5121	1.5140
Swiss Franc	1.2689	1.2663
French Franc	5.1943	5.1950**
Japanese Yen	97.35	97.23
European Currency Unit	1.2550	1.2564**

USD per SDR

Yuan per 100 U.S. Dollars

Borrowing Interest Rates Date: 5/11/1994

Current	1 MTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.06	5.56	5.67	6.25
Sterling Pound	5.02	5.93	6.37	6.93
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.93	5.06	5.43
Swiss Franc	3.50	3.75	3.93	4.37
French Franc	5.31	5.50	5.65	6.18
Japanese Yen	1.15	1.18	2.31	2.62
European Currency Unit	5.56	5.85	6.09	6.41

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 5/11/1994

Current	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940
Sterling Pound	1.1164	1.1220
Deutsche Mark	0.4566	0.4589
Swiss Franc	0.5461	0.5488
French Franc	0.1351	0.1358
Japanese Yen	0.7112	0.7146
Dutch Guilder	0.4074	0.4094
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0446	0.0448
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

Per 100

Other Currencies	Date: 5/11/1994
Currency	Bid Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8210 1.8410
Lebanese Lira	0.040925 0.042350
Saudi Riyal	0.1557 0.1555
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3100 2.3700
Qatari Riyal	1.1858 1.1940
Riyah Pound	0.2000 0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.7540 1.8100
Saudi Dirham	2.1878 2.1895
Gulf Drachma	0.2750 0.3115
Egyptian Pound	1.4250 1.5550

Per 100

South Korea unveils details of trade opening with North Korea

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea Tuesday unveiled a series of measures to revive and expand trade and other exchanges with communist-ruled North Korea, including an offer to open the border.

"The government has decided to launch the first-stage measures to activate inter-Korean economic cooperation... to improve ties between South and North Korea," Vice Unification Minister Song Yong-Dae said after a cabinet meeting.

The measures, effective immediately, were prompted by a landmark accord Oct. 21 between Washington and Pyongyang and followed President Kim Young-Sam's decision Monday to lift the two-year-old ban on inter-Korean trade and investment.

The package was promptly welcomed by the Seoul exchange, where share prices propelled the Composite Index to a record high of

1,138.75, with companies which have contacts with the North, and construction issues, gaining ground.

Mr. Song said Southern businessmen would now be allowed to visit Pyongyang for investment projects or invite Northern business partners to the South, as well as ship North industrial equipment for processing-on-commission trade.

Other measures included permission to open South Korean business offices in Pyongyang for the purposes of pilot joint-venture projects involving food and daily necessities.

South Korean firms overseas will be allowed to hire North Korean workers, too. Mr. Song said.

Moreover, he said, South Korea is ready to provide social overhead capital, food and energy to the North, but only when and "if the government judges that bilateral relations have improved."

He proposed opening the demilitarized zone to let South Korean businessmen enter North Korea more easily for business deals but cautioned against a hasty approach.

"There should be no haste or excessive expectations," he said, stressing that the two Koreas needed an investment guarantee agreement and other institutional devices to ensure full-fledged economic exchanges.

"The government hopes these measures will lead to the resumption of inter-Korean talks," which were suspended by the sudden death of North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung on July 8, he added.

Inter-Korean business contacts started in January 1989, when Chung Ju-Yung, founder of South Korea's leading Hyundai Group, visited Pyongyang for joint ventures in tourism and construction.

A follow-up business delegation went to North Korea in October 1992 for state-funded pilot projects in an industrial complex near Pyongyang, but hopes for business detente fell flat over North Korea's susspect nuclear programme.

At present, South Korean

firms' trade with the North amounts to only a paltry \$200 million annually, conducted through third countries.

Analysts said Tuesday the big question now was the North's response to the package.

Said Ko Il-Dong, an analyst at the state-run think-tank, the Korean Development Institute: "Inter-Korean processing-on-commission trade will be activated, but North Korea must also take reciprocal measures."

The U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) hailed the lifting of restrictions as a boost for its project to develop a free industrial zone in North Korea.

The easing left top business conglomerates here standing in line to resurrect defunct investment projects in the North.

The Samsung Group is our to open an office in Pyongyang, with its eyes on electronics and textiles. Rival Hyundai Group contacted North Korean economic officials in early October — in anticipation of the lifting of the ban — with offers to produce railroad coaches, build ship repair yards and develop tourist sites in the North.

"We hope for further sales in the future," Mr. Nixon said, adding that negotiations had taken six months and that the Canadian side would be responsible for two billion Canadian dollars (\$1.47 billion) of the financing.

The contract was made possibly by the signing Monday of a nuclear cooperation agreement between China and Canada.

Other large contracts include one for 140 million Canadian dollars (\$103 million) for a petroleum and gas pipeline mill, and a joint venture to produce rare metals and four power plants worth 170 million Canadian dollars (\$125 million), an official statement said.

Other deals involve real estate, gold exploration, a sub-way

Canadian premier crowns China visits with mass contracts

BEIJING (R) — Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien Tuesday crowned his visit to China by presiding over the signing of contracts said by officials to be worth \$6.34 billion, including the sale of two nuclear reactors.

In a large ballroom of a deluxe hotel, Mr. Chretien looked on as over 50 Canadian firms signed contracts whose value officials said totalled Canadian \$8.6 billion.

"Today marks a new era in Canada-China trade relations," said a delighted Chretien. "This catapults trade with China into new levels."

An official statement said the deals comprised 2.6 billion Canadian dollars (\$1.9 billion) in commercial contracts, 2.5 billion Canadian dollars (\$1.8 billion) in agreements in principle and 3.5 billion Canadian dollars (\$2.6 billion) for the sale of two Candu nuclear reactors.

Bob Nixon, head of atomic energy of Canada Ltd., said at the signing he was "thrilled and delighted" at the contract for the two reactors, to be built at Qinshan, south of Shanghai, next to a Chinese-designed plant already operating there.

"We hope for further sales in the future," Mr. Nixon said, adding that negotiations had taken six months and that the Canadian side would be responsible for two billion Canadian dollars (\$1.47 billion) of the financing.

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Other deals involve real estate, gold exploration, a sub-way

for the city of Chengdu, a fibreboard plant, a malting barley plant, telecommunications, seafood and sending the Canadian national hockey team to play in China.

If all contracts come to fruition, it will take bilateral trade and investment to an unprecedented level.

In the first nine months of 1994, trade was worth just \$2.045 billion, up 7.7 per cent over the same 1993 period.

They also show actual Canadian investment in China at the end of last year at \$260 million, a fraction of total foreign investment, and less than the \$378 million Chinese firms have invested in Canada.

Mr. Chretien is leading the biggest ever Canadian trade delegation, with top executives from 250 firms and nine provincial premiers. He met President Jiang Zemin and Prime Minister Li Peng Monday.

Kenneth Courtis, an economist with Deutsche Bank Capital Markets in Tokyo, said Mr. Chretien was presenting himself as the "chairman of the board of Canada."

"You will see more of this close relationship between politics and business," he said.

"In Asia, capitalism is relationship capitalism. Politics are close to business. This kind of large-scale delegation can open doors," he added.

IBM, Apple and Motorola announce common standard for PCs

NEW YORK (APF) — Computer giants IBM and Apple joined high-tech company Motorola Monday to announce that they had agreed on a common standard for personal computers, ending a longstanding problem of incompatibility.

The agreement covers personal computers using the PowerPC microprocessor developed by the three companies. The first of the new machines are scheduled to come on the market in 1996.

Experts however described the announcement as "too little, too late," arguing that the triumvirate would not succeed in dethroning the Microsoft-Intel tandem in the computer market.

Microsoft Windows is by far the world's most popular personal computer software system, present in more than 80 per cent of current models, compared with 10 per cent for Mac OS.

Michael Kwatinetz, an analyst with the investment firm Paine Webber, quoted research figures predicting that 160 to 170 million personal computers will use Windows software by 1996.

"Just take a look at the figures. I don't understand why everybody is so excited about it," commented Sanjiv Hingorani, an analyst with the investment firm Nomura.

The new computers would be able to use software designed for both IBM and Apple systems, which are currently incompatible, in a deal designed to break Microsoft's stranglehold on the computer operating system software market.

"We are creating a new industry standard — one whose entrance means greater value and performance for customers, greater opportunities for developers and greater competition for the industry," the three companies said in a statement.

The objective is to achieve 100 per cent compatibility with current PowerPC-based hardware and software application products, while creating a new base standard that offers advanced function future capability," the statement said.

PowerPC will enable the companies to offer personal computers which could use Apple's Mac OS operating software, IBM's OS/2 and AIX and Microsoft's Windows.

The three companies said that "each company intends to take technical and financial responsibility" for bringing the new system onto the market in its own computers.

But they also said that the agreement covers only personal computers capable of working with various types of operating software, and not the software itself.

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Hussein, Wihsat fight for lead

First leg of competition concludes Friday

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The first leg of the 1st division soccer championship will be concluded Nov. 11 when the 11th week of the competition kicks off Wednesday with Al Hussein leading the standings on goal difference.

The upcoming week's six matches are important for all teams to improve their record, however the most vital match will be Al Hussein's clash with titleholders Al Faisali.

The titleholders are now in fourth place behind Al Ramtha and Al Wihsat.

In another important clash, Al Ramtha will have a solid chance to maintain third place going into the second leg if they score a win in their match against newcomers Shabab Al Hussein.

Al Wihsat who lost the lead after scoring three consecutive draws will meet Al Arabi who have now dropped to eighth place and nearing the last four threatened with relegation.

Fifth and sixth place Al Ahli and Al Jazireh will

which seems to be good enough compared to the other three newcomers who are languishing in the last three places and seem destined to be relegated once again.

Elsewhere in the league, Al Qadissieh will try to score a win over last placed

Jordan Soccer League

both be aiming for victory. Al Jazireh, an often lowly team on the brink of relegation in most seasons, scored five consecutive wins during the past weeks enabling them to maintain a top five standing.

Newcomers Kurrsoum who had scored impressive results at the beginning of the competition, face Al Karmel hoping to score a victory that will maintain their halfway standing

Al Jeel still have the worst record with only one point in the standings and a 6-26 scoring average.

Judging by the results of the past week Al Ahli are steadily improving their form, defeating Al Arabi 2-0 and Al Ramtha 1-0 while drawing with former champions Al Wihsat 0-0.

Al Jazireh have also scored more wins so far than the total of wins they scored in past seasons!

The 10th week witnessed

the lowest number of goals scored at 10 compared to 22 in the 7th week, and the lowest profit from ticket sales probably because weather conditions greatly affected most matches.

Nevertheless Al Wihsat-Ramtha match set a new record in the season's ticket sales so far, netting JD 13,500, while Al Jeel-Karmel match netted the second lowest so far at JD 8!

Bench players lead Bulls to comeback victory

CHICAGO (R) — Toni Kukoc scored 19 of his career-high 28 points in the fourth quarter Monday to rally the Chicago Bulls to a 98-83 win over the Philadelphia 76ers.

The Bulls trailed by as many as 16 points in the second-half before using a 14-4 run to start the fourth quarter and take their first lead of the game, 76-73, with just under nine minutes left.

Chicago outscored Philadelphia 22-10 the rest of the way.

"I think we had a pretty good second half," Kukoc said. "I feel good out there. We played good defence in the fourth quarter. It gave me a lot of confidence to be out there."

Chicago head coach Phil Jackson praised his players coming off the bench, who outscored Philadelphia's reserves 62-13.

"You have to give credit to the bench for the energy they were able to provide from the third quarter on," Jackson said. We salvaged a game that maybe we shouldn't have won."

Scottie Pippen added 22 points and 10 rebounds and Jo English scored 11 for Chicago, who improved to 2-1.

Jeff Malone had 25 points and Weatherspoon chipped in with 20 points for Philadelphia, who remained winless at 0-3.

At Utah, Karl Malone had 28 points and nine rebounds, and Walter Bond scored eight points during a 20-6 tear that opened the fourth quarter as the Jazz beat the Atlanta Hawks 104-86.

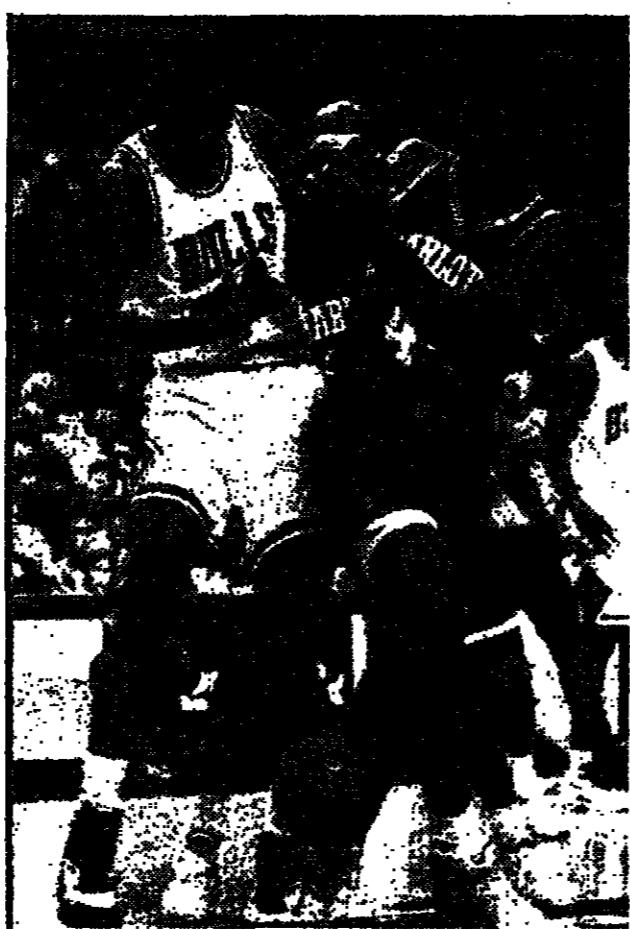
The Jazz held an 81-73 lead after three quarters and Bond, who scored 14 points in the game, keyed the game-breaking run, which gave Utah a 101-79 advantage with 3:22 to play.

Prior to the game, the winless Hawks (0-3) traded forward-centre Kevin Willis and a first-round draft choice to the Miami Heat for guard Steve Smith, forward Grant Long and a second-round pick. None of the players played in the game.

Stacey Augmon led the Hawks (0-3) with 24 points, while Andrew Lang had 17 and Ken Norman had 15.

Atlanta were within one point with 3:40 left in the third quarter before Utah (2-1) kicked into gear.

In San Antonio, Sean Elliott scored 23 points and David Robinson added 18 points and grabbed 19 rebounds.



Chicago Bulls forward Corie Blount (left) loses the ball under pressure from Charlotte Hornets forward Kenny Gattison in one of the NBA's opening match (AFP photo)

WANTED

Executive secretary required for busy office, involving public relations and some travel. Must have at least five years experience, university degree and an excellent command of English. Should also be computer literate. Please fax CV's to 816894. (Any CV not meeting the above-mentioned requirements will not be considered).

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GOREN BRIDGE

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BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♦ 8 7 2
♦ 5 4 3 2
♦ 2
♦ A K Q J 9

WEST
♦ A K Q J 9 5 4 3
♦ 8 6 5 4 3
♦ 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

EAST
♦ 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

SOUTH
♦ K Q J 10 6
♦ 7 6
♦ A K Q
♦ 10 8 7

The bidding:

West North East South

1 V 1 V 1 V 1 V

Pass 3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠

Pass 4 ♠ Pass

Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

Water dripping from a stone will eventually start to wear it away. In the same way, a well-balanced trump can be eroded by constant attack, unless you erect a protective barrier.

South doubled in the balancing position (the only way to announce a good hand), then introduced the

spade suit when North showed invitational values. North's three trumps, singleton and good suit made the raise to game automatic.

West attacked with three rounds of hearts, declarer ruffing the last. It seemed the trump ace was the only other loser, so declarer banged out the king of spades.

In with the ace of spades, West was the first time in playing a fourth heart. Declarer was forced to ruff and now West held a long trump for the setting trick.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, say the wise men. Assuring the contract required no adjustment on declarer's part, just a touch of common sense. After ruffing the third heart, it costs declarer nothing to cash two rounds of diamonds, discarding the table's last heart. Now, when West wins the first trump, there is nothing the defender can do to harm the contract.

A fourth heart can be ruffed in dummy. If East overruffs, so does declarer. Either way, declarer can draw all the trumps and take the rest of the tricks with minor-suited winners.

WANTED: FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS

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The applicant should have:

- A university degree (Business, Economics & Accounting courses preferable but not necessary).
- Graduation date between 1989 to 1994.
- A strong academic performance is a must.
- Fluency in English, with good writing ability.

Applications along with a current Curriculum Vitae, & a passport size photo should be mailed by November 15th, 1994, to the following address:

Career Opportunity
P.O. Box 5055
Amman 11183, Jordan

Australian Open organisers set to eclipse Venus

PHILADELPHIA (AFP) — Jennifer Capriati worked out on a practice court Monday in preparation for her return to the WTA Tour, a match against Germany's Anke Huber.

"I wouldn't say I'm in tip-top shape but I feel good enough to break the ice," Capriati said in a five-paragraph statement. She has denied interview requests.

Capriati, 18, quit the pro-circuit after a first-round loss in last year's U.S. Open. She was arrested for shoplifting a year ago and was charged in May with marijuana possession, following which she underwent drug rehabilitation.

Now she is returning serves for 30 minutes at a time with new coach Jose Higueras, showing no signs of burnout or personal problems.

"I'm not even thinking about winning or losing," her statement said. "Who the opponent is doesn't really matter. I just want to have fun out there."

Capriati wrote that she has been in serious training since August and had planned to return last month before a muscle pull set back her timetable.

"In regards to after this

The American has indicated she wants a wild card for the New South Wales Open, the lead-up Sydney event to January's Australian Open.

Australian Open tournament director Paul McNamee said Tuesday that while he had not received any request for a special entry for Williams, he could not support granting one.

Tennis Australia is keen to support the recent age ruling of the Women's Tennis Council.

McNamee said: "Tennis Australia was a party to formulating the new rules regarding young girls playing professional tennis, and it would be difficult for us to give her a wild card."

NSW Open organisers are keen for Williams to play in Sydney. But if Tennis Australia rejects an Open wild card there is little hope she would travel to Australia just to play in a state event.

Fellow 14-year-old sensation Martina Hingis of Switzerland and 18-year-old Jennifer Capriati, starting her comeback this week, are likely to play in the Australian Open.

The new rules, which come into effect on Jan. 1, do not apply to Hingis, who has been on the circuit long enough to earn the points to give her direct entry into the Open.

Leading women's rankings issued by the Women's Tennis Association Monday:

1. Steffi Graf (Germany)
2. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain)
3. Cochita Martinez (Spain)
4. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic)
5. Mary Pierce (France)
6. Martina Navratilova (U.S.)
7. Lindsay Davenport (U.S.)
8. Kimiko Date (Japan)
9. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
10. Natalia Zvereva (Belarus)
11. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)
12. Mary Joe Fernandez (U.S.)
13. Anke Huber (Germany)
14. Amy Frazier (U.S.)
15. Ivan Majoli (Croatia)
16. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa)
17. Brenda Schultz (Netherlands)
18. Lori McNeil (U.S.)
19. Zina Garrison Jackson (U.S.)
20. Sabine Hack (Germany)

Panathinaikos to sack star Gallis

ATHENS (R) — Nick Gallis, the idol of Greek basketball and one of Europe's best guards for a decade, will soon be sacked by his club Panathinaikos for failing to play for three weeks, a club official said Tuesday.

Panathinaikos has decided to proceed with ending Nick Gallis' contract because he has abstained with no excuse from his athletic commitments," the official told Reuters.

Gallis, 37, who led Panathinaikos to the European Champion Clubs' final four tournament in Tel Aviv last April, has not played since mid-October after a row with his coach Costas Politis.

The official said he would be dismissed within the next 10 days.

Gallis' absence has caused problems to the club who

Capriati set to return Wednesday

tournament and next year, I don't know," the statement read. "I'm just going to take things day by day."

Capriati's WTA debut at age 13 and struggles since helped prompt the tour to adopt a 16-year-old minimum age limit starting next season. But an opponent of such limitations is Metellen 14, a 16-year-old who upset South Africa's Amanda Coetzer 6-1, 6-3 Monday.

"There are a lot of mature 14-year-olds out there," she said. "If you are independent, you look at things a different way and not let what people say both you. People can be really cruel, especially when you lose."

Krajicek crashes out in first round

In Antwerp, Belgium, hard-hitting Dutchman Richard Krajicek succumbed 7-6 7-6 to unseeded Frenchman Olivier Delaire to put his name on the first-round casualty list at the European Community Tennis Championship Monday.

The Dutch fourth seed, who won the event in 1993, produced 22 aces but the rest

of his game was well below par and included a dramatic number of unforced errors.

"It was a very bad match, I played very badly. It's never fun to end a year like this," said Krajicek, whose plans for the rest of 1994 include a cross country ski holiday in Switzerland.

"I had a few small opportunities (to take control) of the match but I blew them," added the Dutchman, who has played six weeks in a row.

Krajicek, who had never played Delaire before, lost the first set tie-break 7-3 and the second 7-4.

Fifth-seeded Jason Stoltenberg also fell by the wayside, the 24-year-old Australian finding Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman inspired form as he went down 7-5, 6-3.

Bjorkman's reward is a match against Italian Renzo Furlan, who won two tie-breaks to edge qualifier Kenneth Carlsen of Denmark 7-6 7-6.

Defending champion and top seed Pete Sampras makes his first appearance against Belgian Johan Van Herck.

Second seed Michael Stich, and third seed Stefan Edberg did not play until Wednesday.

Cowboys clinch sixth straight; Bengals, Steelers win without touchdowns

DALLAS (AFP) — Reigning Super Bowl champion Dallas set the stage for a showdown with arch-rival San Francisco by rolling to victory Monday night.

Emmitt Smith rushed for 162 yards and two touchdowns while quarterback Troy Aikman threw for one score and ran for another as Dallas nipped the New York Giants 38-30.

The reigning National Football League (NFL) champions, won their sixth straight game and raised their record to 35-3 despite a 35-3 Dallas lead in order to pad his yardage totals. The three-time NFL rushing champion trails Detroit's Barry Sanders in this year's yardage race.

Dallas moved ahead 14-3 half-time and took advantage of three Giants' turnovers in the third quarter for 21 points, condemning New York to a sixth straight defeat.

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Democrats sweat as Americans vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats' low expectations were matched by Republican confidence as Americans in every state voted Tuesday in a mid-term election critical to President Bill Clinton's political future.

The American people were deciding on whether to give the nation a sharp change of direction. Worried Democrats — the party of activist government — feared they could lose control of the Senate, and Republicans reached for control of the House of Representatives, too.

Turnout among more than 175 million eligible voters was key — little more than a third were expected to vote — as a dozen or more big races hinged on which party could get its supporters to the polls.

After a campaign of surly attack ads, record spending and cross-party endorsements, voters were deciding 35 of 100 Senate seats, all 435 House slots and 36 governorships, with voting in every state. Polls opened as early as 6 a.m. Eastern standard time (1100 GMT) in some states.

President Clinton, whose own unpopularity has been a drag for his party in many parts of the country, made a series of last-minute radio pitches for Democratic candidates Tuesday, complaining about the sour tone of many races.

"This is not the time for negativism," he said. "This is the time to be upbeat but aggressive in tackling our problems and meeting our opportunities."

"Don't turn back," he pleaded with voters in an exhaustive Minnesota-to-Delaware election eve swing before returning to Washington Monday night.

Everyone agreed that the uneasy mood of the voters favoured the Republicans. For Mr. Clinton's Democratic Party, the question was whether they could limit their losses.

Mr. Clinton's Democratic Party has held sway over the

House for 40 years and the Senate since 1986.

Even if the Republicans fall short of winning both houses of Congress in Tuesday's balloting, they felt sure of blocking much of the Clinton agenda for the next two years of his presidency.

Some long-time liberal leaders of the Democratic Party — Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, Governor Mario Cuomo of New York and House Speaker Thomas Foley of Washington state — sweated out challenges by an untested generation of candidates.

Among the political newcomers were Jeb and George W. Bush, former President Bush's sons who are running to oust incumbent Democratic governors in Florida and Texas; Iran-contra figure Oliver North, who was running for the Senate in Virginia, and Mitt Romney, Mr. Kennedy's opponent, the son of a former Michigan governor.

"We are on the verge of a Republican resurgence," said Roger Stone, a Republican strategist.

Democratic Sen. Sam Nunn of Georgia conceded that his party was at risk of heavy losses, saying the Democrats' chances of keeping Senate control were "no better than 50-50." Republicans need to win seven Democratic seats to take control of the Senate.

Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas, chairman of the Senate Republican Campaign Committee, predicted Tuesday on CBS Television that Republicans can Senate seats would gain about 11 Senate seats.

The Republicans needed to take 40 Democratic House seats to win control, installing the combative Newt Gingrich as speaker.

Americans, in off-year elections, traditionally stay away from the polls in droves. Four years ago, 67 million voted, but 110 million did not. Few experts are predicting much more than 1990's 36 per cent turnout.

Police kill Cairo militant; guard killed in south

CAIRO (Agencies) — Police on Tuesday killed a suspected Muslim militant in Cairo, while suspected militants shot dead a civilian guard and wounded a policeman in southern Egypt.

Police said Hassan Salah Hassan died in a shootout during a raid on his home in the eastern Cairo district of Mokattam.

The militant was believed to be involved in the killing in April of Raouf Khairat, an intelligence officer in the security forces, police said.

The raid Tuesday was part of a crackdown on 15 militant hideouts in Cairo, Giza province, Buhaira province in the Delta and Alexandria, police said. Twenty-seven people, all followers of Hassan, were arrested and weapons including grenades seized.

The court ruling was "final and imperative, and it has been decided that the first (militant) will be executed in the coming days," MENA said, referring to Ahmad Mohammad Goma.

The second militant, Sherif Mohammad Hassan, is on trial.

The wife of a jailed militant was among those arrested in Cairo. Police said they found dynamite, bomb timers and gun silencers in her home.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak turned down a plea against death sentences imposed on two Muslim militants in September and one of them will be executed within days, the official Middle East News Agency said Tuesday.

The court ruling was "final and imperative, and it has been decided that the first (militant) will be executed in the coming days," MENA said, referring to Ahmad Mohammad Goma.

Mr. Pasqua added that police also found detonators and chemicals which could be used to make explosives.

The GIA has claimed the killings of most of the 69 foreigners, including 21 French nationals, murdered in Algeria as part of a violent campaign to topple Algeria's military-led government by various Islamic groups.

Mr. Pasqua declined to give further details about the purported foreign ramifications of the group.

Asked if arrests were to be expected abroad, he replied: "I don't know."

About 300 police were mobilised for the raids which began at 6:00 a.m. (0500 GMT) after six months of surveillance operations.

Police said they had staked out a Koranic school based at Orly, south of Paris, and a sports and social club known as the Educational Association of the Muslims of France.

Its leaders allegedly dealt in drugs, false identity papers and weapons to provide finance and support for the GIA, police said.

A Paris flat that purportedly served as a hideout for GIA members heading for Algeria to join anti-government guerrillas or returning from there was also turned over, police said.

At Villeneuve-Saint-Georges, police wearing black commando uniforms and balaclavas to conceal their identities raided a rundown house in an area of the town inhabited by immigrants and arrested seven men in their 20s, some of them Europeans and some of North African origin.

Mr. Pasqua personally supervised the preparations for the operations during a series of meetings attended by Paris police chief Philippe Massoni and senior police and security agents, police said.

Tokyo conference urges better Japan-GCC ties

From Rana Husseini in Tokyo THE FIRST Japan-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) business conference concluded Tuesday evening after adopting a "Tokyo declaration" and calling for better mutual trade understanding between GCC countries and Japan.

The Tokyo declaration was based on the agreement reached at the third round of Japan-GCC consultations held in Tokyo in June 1993.

"The adoption of the declaration represent a turning point in the relationship between Japan and the GCC because it will open the door for Japanese investment in the GCC region," Abdul Aziz Al Zamil, the minister of industry and electricity of Saudi Arabia, told a press conference marking the end of the three-day conference.

"What we are trying to emphasise is that the time had come for diversification in GCC exports from simple raw materials to a wide range of value added goods," Mr. Zamil added.

In order to achieve such diversification, he maintained, the GCC countries see a necessity to improve the current industry structure by inviting more direct Japanese investment and technology transfer.

Mr. Zamil, who headed the GCC delegation to the

conference emphasised the role of the private sector, "which should become more involved to enhance trade industry and investments for both sides."

Yoshihisa Ojimi, chairman of the organising committee who also addressed reporters, stressed the necessary of increasing direct Japanese investment in the GCC countries.

"As Japanese investment overseas grows, more opportunities will arise for joint venture with GCC, and the increased deregulation of the Japanese market will lead to more exporting capability for GCC countries," said Mr. Ojimi.

More than 400 people from Japan and GCC participated in the business conference.

The GCC delegation consisted of 200 businessmen and government officials from six GCC countries, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. The Japanese side was represented by government officials and economic leaders.

The first-of-its-kind gathering aimed at promoting mutual understanding and the strengthening of economic ties and technological cooperation between Japan and the GCC countries in the private sector.

Crown Prince, French admiral discuss peace

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday received at the Royal Court French Chief of Staff Admiral Jacques Lamade and a delegation accompanying him.

Discussion at the meeting focused on Jordanian-French relations and France's role supporting the Middle East peace process and the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mir.

Prince Hassan discussed with the EU official plans for the stages following the Casablanca conference on economic development and the follow-up Amman conference which will be held next year.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday meets with French Chief of Staff Admiral Jacques Lamade (Petra photo)



France launches crackdown on Islamic militants

PARIS (Agencies) — Police detained nearly 100 suspected Muslim fundamentalists early on Tuesday in a major crackdown across France on a support network for Algeria's Armed Islamic Group (GIA) guerrilla organisation.

The GIA is the most radical movement, which rejects any dialogue with the military authorities and has claimed responsibility for killing many of the 70 foreigners murdered in Algeria in the last two years.

Interior Minister Charles Pasqua said police uncovered an Islamic fundamentalist network with worldwide links after the raids earlier in the day in which arms were seized and 95 people arrested.

Mr. Pasqua said the raids demonstrated the existence of "highly motivated" fundamentalists carrying out or planning "terrorist or underground activities from our territory or other European countries."

Hundreds of French police swooped at dawn Tuesday against Islamic fundamentalists allegedly linked to the GIA, seizing weapons and explosives and carrying out the arrests.

Mr. Pasqua told a press conference that the GIA network had links with other groups in Germany, Canada, Britain, Italy and the Netherlands and also had branches in the French cities of Lille, Marseille and Lyon.

He said that in a raid by a hooded commando of elite police at Villeneuve-Saint-Georges, south of Paris, Tuesday, 12 assault rifles, three shotguns, two automatic pistols and grenades were seized.

Mr. Pasqua added that police also found detonators and chemicals which could be used to make explosives.

The GIA has claimed the killings of most of the 69 foreigners, including 21 French nationals, murdered in Algeria as part of a violent campaign to topple Algeria's military-led government by various Islamic groups.

Mr. Pasqua declined to give further details about the purported foreign ramifications of the group.

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Mr. Pasqua personally supervised the preparations for the operations during a series of meetings attended by Paris police chief Philippe Massoni and senior police and security agents, police said.

Blasts in Tehran as Iran-Iraq tension rises

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran Tuesday accused its main opposition group of setting off two bomb explosions in impoverished, crowded south Tehran, killing as many as three people and possibly wounding scores of others.

But the Iraq-based Mujahedeen-e-Khalq said government agents planted the bombs to implicate the rebels and justify more attacks against their bases across the border.

Baghdad meanwhile threatened Tehran with military retaliation if events escalated following a recent attack on a Mujahedeen camp inside Iraq.

In opting for peace, Iraq has not given up its arms of deterrence against all those who think to violate its sovereignty and security," warned Naji Hadithi, Iraq's deputy culture and information minister.

Mr. Hadithi, quoted by the Babel daily newspaper, added: "The missile attack, in response to the offer of peace from Iraq to its neighbour, is in keeping with the actions of the rulers" of Tehran.

Iraq protested to the United Nations about a missile attack Saturday on a camp of the Mujahedeen in the Fadayan Eslam neighbourhood in southwestern Tehran. The bomb was planted inside a trash can and killed two passengers in a car parked next to it.

The second bomb went off at Chit-Sazi intersection, killing a passerby, it said.

Chit-Sazi is one of the most crowded intersections in southern Tehran.

Israel insists cholera has broken out in Gaza

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli health ministry insisted Tuesday that cholera had broken out in the self-rule Gaza Strip and that a ban on fruit and vegetable imports was justified.

He said the health ministry examined all fruit and vegetables and "found the samples free of any disease."

"We have stopped the import of all agricultural produce from the autonomy area," Rina Versano of the Israeli health ministry's national food service said.

She said that the ban, which also covers Gaza produce going to the West Bank, was issued Monday night after seven Palestinians in Gaza were diagnosed with cholera.

"I spoke to Riyad Zaanan and they have 20 suspected cases of cholera and five microbiologically verified."

Mr. Levy said no food would be imported from the Strip "until this is clarified." He urged Israelis to wash carefully all produce from Gaza which might still be on the market.

Mohammad Rayis, deputy director of Gaza's agriculture ministry, argued that Israel was punishing all Gaza farmers instead of testing actual produce for signs of the disease.

"Now are farmers have no place to sell their produce," he said.

Gaza has been permitted to export produce to Israel since achieving autonomy by the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord last May.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Norwegian aid money for self-rule missing

OSLO (AFP) — More than \$120,000 in Norwegian aid for the Gaza Strip and Jericho has gone missing and a U.N. official has been suspended, the Norwegian foreign ministry said Monday. Ministry spokesman Ingvor Havnen, confirming a report on Norwegian television, called it a "serious" incident. The news programme, Dagsrevyen said the money was part of \$28.7 million in aid that Norway earmarked for a farm project in Gaza and the West Bank city of Jericho, autonomous areas under the autonomy agreement reached last year. Around \$121,000 vanished somewhere between U.N. headquarters in New York and a U.N. refugee office in Vienna, the news report said, adding that a U.N. official at the Vienna office was suspended Monday. Mr. Havnen said Norwegian consultants were involved in the agricultural project. He said an investigation has been opened and that lawyers for both Norway and the United Nations have been brought into the case. The news programme said U.N. officials, suspecting corruption, have alerted auditors at the headquarters in New York. Norway, which brokered secret talks that led to the autonomy deal, coordinates international aid to the Palestinian self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho.

12 per cent of Israelis are poor — report

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Nearly 650,000 Israelis or 12 per cent of the population last year earned less than \$300 a month last year, the official poverty line, according to a report published Tuesday. The National Insurance Institute found that another 1.15 million Israelis out of the total population of 5.3 million earn just slightly more than \$300 a month. In 1992, 616,000 Israelis were classified as poor, but with the population rising by 125,000 people, the figure for 1992 represents a slight percentage reduction.

Iran stepped up anti-narcotics drive

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran is stepping up efforts to curb widespread drug addiction and trafficking, including a measure under which addicts would be banished to an island in the Gulf, Tehran Radio reported Tuesday. The broadcast said President Hashemi Rafsanjani on Monday chaired a meeting of the country's anti-narcotics headquarters, which called for new efforts to combat the scourge. The meeting stressed that better resources should be placed in the hands of the law enforcement agencies, which it said should be better deployed along the eastern borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan. Also in the meeting, "necessary decisions" were taken to banish unruly and wandering addicts to "Forur island" in the southern Gulf, the radio said. Four years ago, in response to public outrage over rampant drug addiction, which unofficial estimates said involved two million of Iran's 60 million population, the government imposed new laws that stipulate the death sentence for drug traffickers.

Quake jolts central Iranian province

NICOSIA (AP) — A moderate earthquake jolted Iran's southern Fars province early Tuesday, the latest of some 800 tremors that have struck the region this year, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The agency said the quake registered a preliminary magnitude of 3.6. It struck the Meimand and Firouzabad regions, 80 kilometres

south of the provincial capital of Shiraz, at 3:08 a.m. (23:38 GMT Monday). The agency said about 780 earthquakes, none major, have shaken the region since February, destroying 6,000 homes.

Irqi, Sri Lankan refugees picked up

KARLSKRONA (AFP) — Swedish coast guard officers on Tuesday picked up 41 Iraqi and Sri Lankan refugees drifting aboard three lifeboats in the Baltic Sea, officials said. They said the refugees — 28 Iraqis and 13 Sri Lankans — included women and children and appeared in good health. They were apparently on board their lifeboats only a few hours before a Russian vessel detected them near the island of Utiklippa. Some 1,000 refugees trying to enter Sweden illegally have been detected in the Baltic Sea since September 1992, most of them on board lifeboats or hidden on freighters.

Iran Air, KLM agree to increase flights

N